

GEORGINA.

VOL. II.

Entered at Stationers Hall.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON

IN TEN VOLUMES

LONDON: Printed by A. MILLAR, in Pall-mall.

MDCCLXXII.

Vol. I.

1660.

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CHARLES

GEORGINA:

OR,

MEMOIRS

OF THE

BELLMOUR FAMILY.

BY A YOUNG LADY.

VOLUME II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR;

AND SOLD BY R. BALDWIN, PATER-NOSTER
ROW; J. ROBSON, NEW BOND-STREET;
P. ELMSLY, STRAND; AND J. WALTER,
CHARING-CROSS.

MDCCLXXXVII.

GEORGINA

MEMOIRS

OF THE

TELLMOUR TAMILS

BY A YOUNG LADY.

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A. LINDLEY, ST. MARK'S, AND J. WALLIS,

WINDMILL-STR.

GEORGINA.

LETTER XL.

WHEN the day was fixed on for our departure to New-York, Sir William Hunter came over to conduct us; and in the most pathetic terms thanked Mr. and Mrs. Breynton, in my Father's name, for their humane attention to his children : taking from his finger, at the same time, a diamond ring of considerable value, which, in a most delicate and elegant manner, he presented to Mrs. Breynton, as a trifling token of his own feelings, for the protection she had given to the children of his friend.

It required infinite address in Sir William to prevail on her to accept this present, whilst, with tears of real sorrow, she and Mr. Breynton took leave of Louisa me and.

Their parental care and attention had made such an impression on our hearts, that we were ready to burst, when we bid this worthy couple farewell, nor could any thing have mitigated our sorrow, but the idea of immediately throwing ourselves into the arms of our only parent.

Fanny did not omit to pour fourth her gratitude and acknowledgments to Mr. and Mrs. Breynton, for their conduct to her and the children of her departed benefactress.

Often did this amiable couple interrupt

interrupt our stepping into the carriage, by their affectionate embraces; nor would they allow us to depart, until Sir William Hunter had pledged his honor, that we should often visit them, if the army continued in their neighbourhood.

Upon our arrival at my Father's house, Sir William, who had previously cautioned us, not to be alarmed at his appearance, led us to his chamber door, which being opened.— Oh! Mrs. Montague, a sight presented itself, which made my blood run cold:—There I beheld my honoured Father, who, but so lately I had seen in blooming health, with a countenance so lively, that melancholy fled at his approach, sitting with his elbow resting on a table, to support his

reclining head; his hair dishevelled, and his beard overgrown—distress and bitter woe were marked in every feature; pale was his face; and those fine eyes, which once threw a lustre round him, sunk in his head, with a degree of wildness in them, almost terrifying: His body was emaciated in a most alarming manner, and his clothes thrown on with a negligence I never before had seen:—So that scarcely any thing remained of what I formerly admired in this parent, from whom poor Louisa and I were now alone to expect protection.

As soon as Sir William imagined our surprize at so dreadful a sight had a little subsided, he called out in a very sharp tone of voice,—“ Bellmour, here are your children.”

Now

Now did the moment arrive, which was to determine my dearest Father's return to his reason; and that all-wise and good Providence, which directs every movement the most minute of the intellectual, as well as the material world, in pity to his helpless children, interposed here in their favour, and roused him in the manner it was hoped the sight of us would do.

He raised his head, and turning his languid eyes towards the door, he sprung forward; when, catching me in his arms, he exclaimed, "Oh! Georgina, have I saved you from the devouring flames"—and instantly burst forth into a most copious flood of tears, and agonizing sobs, which seemed to rend his heart.

This affecting interview was by far

too powerful for my tender age and spirits : I returned tear for tear, and fob for fob, until I was reduced to a state requiring my being borne from his sight.

He then clasped Louisa in his arms, kissed and pressed her to his bosom, whilst she threw her little hands about his neck, and cried with joy ; for some minutes he attentively surveyed her face, and turning to Sir William, with a heavy sigh, exclaimed—" See here, my Caroline still lives: this little cherub, Hunter, is her perfect image." Again he kissed her; and again dissolving into tears, seemed to have given unusual ease to his long burthened mind.

From this instant, as had been expected by the physicians, his sensibility

lity returned, and he enjoyed a comfort in the company of his children: notwithstanding which, corroding grief in secret preyed upon his mind, which not all the efforts of his friends, or any other means, could conquer.

My Father's health being in too low a state to admit of it, Sir William Hunter kindly undertook the task of conveying to our friends in Ireland the dreadful story of my mother's fate: He addressed himself to Mr. Flyn, as husband to her sister; and after picturing the circumstances of the sad disaster in the most affecting manner, entreated of him to break it in the gentlest terms to Mr. Lindsay and Mrs. Flyn; by concealing from them the real cause of her death, and attributing it to an inflammation in her bowels: the advanced age of Mr.

Lindsay, he told him, and the tender affection which both he and Mrs. Flyn bore to Mrs. Bellmour, rendered such a precaution absolutely necessary; and concluded by saying, that as the utmost discretion was requisite in managing so delicate a matter, it could not more properly fall to the lot of any person to execute, than him, who it was natural to suppose, would so particularly attend to giving them as little pain as possible.

After such a letter, pointing out a mode of conduct to be pursued, it was scarcely to be imagined Mr. Flyn could err, let his ignorance of the feelings of human nature be what they might: but so it happened; for no sooner was he in possession of it, then, either from the pleasure prevailing in the disposition of the lower order
of

of people (in which class Mrs. Montague must remember Mr. Flyn originally stood) to relate tales of woe, with every aggravating circumstance; or to the secret satisfaction his base soul enjoyed at the death of my Mother, (whom he never could endure, from a trifling accident I formerly related) he flew to the chamber of my Aunt, who was only three weeks brought to bed, and without the smallest preparation to receive so unexpected an account of the loss of a sister, she loved with the greatest affection, even by a stroke less melancholy, than was the case, he exclaimed—"Shocking news from America; your sister, Mrs. Bellmour, and her last little infant Augustus, are burnt to death, and Colonel Bellmour is gone mad! It was a dreadful affair—I am very sorry for it; your Father will surely break his heart."

B 5.

Such

Such a piece of intelligence, conveyed in so unguarded and brutal a manner, produced, as might be well supposed it would, the most alarming consequences; my Aunt fell into hysteric fits, which nearly put a period to her life; nor has she to this day recovered the effects of her husband's indiscretion.

After perceiving the impropriety of his conduct, by mentioning my Mother's death in so unfeeling a manner to his wife, it might have been hoped he would have acted with more becoming caution, whenever he undertook to disclose the melancholy event to Mr. Lindsay, whose fond partiality for his darling Caroline and her family, he knew was quite unbounded; yet the very day on which he threw his wife into those agonies and danger
just

just described, he rode over to Silver-spring, where my Grandfather and Henry then resided during a school vacation; and arriving whilst the venerable old man was at dinner with his Grandson and four neighbouring gentlemen, the ruffian instantly repeated almost the same words he had done to my Aunt, with the kind addition, "that his poor wife, he feared, was killed with grief."

Horror appeared in the countenance of the gentlemen and servants who were present, and a detestation of the man, who in such a savage manner could disclose a loss, which must deeply wound an aged parent's heart, even if divulged with delicacy, and overwhelm a son with the most agonizing sorrow.

Henry for some time sat motionless, absorbed in silent anguish, until his attention, and that of all the company, were roused by my honoured Grandfather, who, on the first intelligence of the miserable fate of his adored Caroline—for some minutes—sighed as if his heart would burst; then gave a heavy groan;—fell from his chair;—and expired without a pang.

Such a sudden shock was too great for his strength to overcome, being then far advanced in years, and his constitution much impaired by a paralytic stroke some months before; which, however, he seemed to be getting the better of, when Mr. Flynn thought proper to put an end to his existence, by a most unparalleled piece of imprudence, not to call it by a harsher term.

The

The grief which originated at Silver-spring, spread like a contagion round the country ; every countenance was impressed with sorrow ; the unhappy fate of my Grandfather and his beloved Daughter was lamented with the utmost sincerity, as they were both respected for their virtues, and many amiable qualities.

Henry was truly now an object of compassion : at the instant almost that he was informed of the death of his adorable Mother and little Brother, by an accident Humanity recoils at, even to relate, was he deprived of a Grandfather, under whose kind and tender protection he had received the most parental and affectionate treatment : he was likewise in a kingdom where he had scarce a friend, and distant from any relations, to whom he could look
up,

up, except his Aunt; and though he was ever taught to hold her in respect, yet he too much despised her husband, to think of taking refuge in his house, until he received his Father's directions how to act: besides, as he considered Mr. Flyn principally the cause of his Grandfather's sudden death, the dislike he had long entertained for that man, now grew into a perfect hatred.

In this affecting state was poor Henry, when Mr. Miller, a gentleman of fortune near Silver Spring, offered his generous protection, and removed the unhappy youth to Clermount, where he and Mrs. Miller used every means to alleviate his grief, and render his situation pleasing; but the sensibility he possessed (although so young) of the heavy losses he had sustained by the death of so many objects of his affection,

fection, in silence preyed upon his mind.

The alteration in his looks alarming Mr. and Mrs. Miller, they, by the advice of a physician, removed him to Mallow, in hopes that the medicinal waters of the place, aided by the croud of company resorting there, as well for amusement as health, would be of benefit; their wishes were so far gratified, that his health was in a few weeks re-established, although his dejection of spirits still remained.

As Mr. Miller knew it was my Grandfather's intentions to have entered Henry in the university of Dublin, immediately after the summer vacation, he was determined that no interruption should be given to his education by his death, or by waiting for instructions

instructions from America; he therefore attended him to Dublin, and placed him a fellow commoner and private pupil, under the Reverend Mr. S——, settling all the other necessary arrangements in the most extensive manner, for pursuing his studies in that college.

Indeed, Mr. Miller's attention to Henry was so very remarkable, that it ever entitled him, and his amiable wife, to the friendship and respect of every individual of the Bellmour family.

At the same time that Sir William Hunter wrote to Mr. Flyn, he addressed the Dowager Lady Avondale, on the same distressing subject, which she answered in a most affecting manner; requesting of my Father to send

Louisa.

Louisa and me to her care, by the first opportunity ; as our present situation, without a Mother, and in an enemy's country, must be rather unpleasant, besides being a very great obstacle to our education.

My Father perceiving the full force of her Ladyship's arguments, for wishing to remove us from America, resolved to comply with her request as soon as possible ; and every thing was accordingly prepared for our departure, under the protection of Sir William Hunter, who was called, about this time, to England, to settle some private affairs of consequence, which would require his absence from the regiment about six months.

It was a pleasing circumstance for us, although the loss of such a sincere
and

and steady friend, at so critical a period, was much to be lamented; least that my Father, when deprived of his unwearied attention, should again sink into the indulgence of that melancholy, which Sir William had endeavoured with so much pains to divert him from, and which had given such uneasiness to all his family and friends; and even to me, giddy and inexperienced as I might then be well supposed.

The attachment of Sir William Hunter to our family having been so often mentioned, since the unfortunate fate of my Mother, with the virtues which have so eminently shone forth in his character, on several occasions, you certainly, Mrs. Montague, must long since have entertained a strong partiality in his favour; and
of

of course, would consider it an unpardonable omission in me, did I not indulge you with some particular account of so valuable and shining an ornament to society; which, however, I will reserve for the subject of my next letter.

LET-

LETTER XM.

SIR William Hunter was descended from an ancient family in Warwickshire, and received the foundation of his education at Winchester school, under the ingenious Dr. W——; from whence he was removed to Oxford, where having pursued his studies with great applause, he took his degree.

Notwithstanding his great application to the learned languages, he did not neglect those polite accomplishments necessary for a young man of his fashion; and as he excelled in many of them (particularly music and dancing) he was always an acquisition,
in

in whatever family he favoured with his company.

After quitting Oxford, he made the tour of Europe; and as he possessed a very enlarged understanding, and went abroad merely to improve his mind, by contrasting the manners of foreign countries, with those of his own, it is no wonder, that at the end of three years, he returned to England enriched with a fund of instruction, which very few young men who travel have sufficient sense or prudence to acquire.

He was of the middle size; his figure genteel; and his face rather handsome.—His address elegant; his manners engaging; and his virtues such as he has given distinguished proofs of,

of, in the course of his acquaintance with my Father and our family.

On returning from his travels, he wished to be busied in some public line, as the elder son of an English Baronet or Esquire, during his Father's life, without employment, appeared to him a most insignificant and idle character.

He therefore obtained his Father's leave, to purchase a Cornet's commission in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, in which he continued for two years; when his Father dying, he came into the possession of an estate valued at four thousand pounds per annum.

It was supposed, that this event would make him quit the army, for which he never had a remarkable partiality; but as the contest with the Colonies

Colonies commenced about the same period, he did not consider it consistent with his honour to retire from the service, until that point was settled. But wishing, at the same time, to bear an active part in favour of his country, (which would not probably be in his power, if he continued in the cavalry) he, by his interest with the Minister, (having a seat in Parliament himself, and a borough at his disposal) got permission to purchase a company in the regiment to which my Father belonged, just as it received orders to embark for foreign service: exhibiting to the world, in the circumstance of the purchase, an instance of the most exalted generosity and humanity.

The gentleman wishing to retire, had served almost thirty years; was nearly worn out with age and infirmities;

ties; and had a wife with five children to provide for. The corps, in compassion to his situation, and from their perfect approbation of his general conduct, allowed him to make the most advantageous bargain, in the disposal of his company, although it was evidently prejudicial to their interest.

Sir William Hunter hearing of this opportunity for promotion, not only gave the deserving veteran the highest value for his company, but also a rent charge on his estate of fifty pounds per annum, for his own and the life of his wife.

An act of such benevolence, with many other favourable circumstances, introduced him to the regiment with great eclat; and he soon became a favourite with all the officers, but particularly

cularly my Father, to whom he bore a surprizing similitude of disposition in many points : this produced an intimacy, which laid the foundation of that friendship they so much improved, and of course to that respect my Mother always shewed him.

Some months after Sir William arrived at Boston, he lost his heart to a very beautiful young lady, daughter to Mr. Hamilton, a gentleman of considerable property in that town, and it was not very long before he made himself agreeable to Miss Hamilton, who had been educated in England, and was an exceeding sensible and accomplished girl.

An alliance equal, if not superior to any thing she had a right to expect, it might be well supposed, would

have influenced her Father to accept of a proposal of marriage made by Sir William ; but civil discord about that period breaking out, Mr. Hamilton preferred the indulgence of a party principle, to the interest and happiness of his daughter, and absolutely rejected the offer with some degree of impoliteness ; commanding the young Lady to think no more about it.

This was indeed a dreadful disappointment to her hopes, as she had entertained a very sincere affection for Sir William ; but she was too well acquainted with her Father's temper, to offer, for the present, any arguments to remove his prejudices against him, and therefore submitted to the cruel authority of a parent, who in a few days after removed her and all his family

mily to a considerable distance from Boston.

Mr. Hamilton soon accepting of a command in the army of the Colonists, was, on his retreat from Long-Island, wounded and taken prisoner; when Sir William had an opportunity of exerting his humanity and attention to the Father of the woman he adored. Every assistance was given to Mr. Hamilton, which the British army could supply, without effect, as he died the sixth day after he was wounded; but not before he had apologized to Sir William, for his blunt refusal to the proposals he had done him the honour of making when at Boston.

Sir William seized this opportunity of renewing his former offer; to which Mr. Hamilton instantly agreed,

by placing his signature to a few lines, drawn up to that effect, as he was too weak to write the whole himself.

After Sir William had paid his last tribute to the memory of this gentleman, by having him interred with military honours, he obtained permission of the commanders of both armies, to proceed to the place where Miss Hamilton resided. After informing her and the family of Mr. Hamilton's fate, and using every endeavour to alleviate their distress upon so melancholy an occasion, he, in some days after, presented Miss Hamilton with her Father's written consent. This, in fact, was very needless, she being without it, at full liberty to pursue the dictates of her heart, which had long since decided in his favour.

Sir

Sir William's leave of absence from the army being very short, Miss Hamilton was under the necessity of giving up those punctilios of propriety, which otherwise could not have been dispensed with, on the recent death of her Father, by bestowing her hand upon Sir William, who conducted his fair bride to New York, about a fortnight before his intended return to England.

No sooner was Lady Hunter introduced to my Father, than she expressed her satisfaction, at hearing she was to have the charge of Louisa and me, to the Dowager Lady Avondale, hinting, at the same time, the pleasure it would give her, to be allowed to superintend the education of one of us, whilst she continued in England, which might unavoidably be longer than Sir

William was at present aware of. My Father readily consented to this polite and friendly offer, provided the consent of the dowager Lady Avondale could be obtained.

At length the day for our departure arrived ; when the excessive tenderness of my Father for Louisa and me could not be surpassed, for some hours before we left him, as by turns he pressed us to his bosom : but when we solicited his parting blessing, his agonies were great, and scarcely could Louisa be taken from his arms, he gazed at her with such affecting rapture, often calling her his Caroline.

The sorrow which oppressed our little hearts, at being separated from our only parent, is not easily to be described : we hung about his neck
and

and knees, making our lamentations in such strains, that all who were present at the tender interview, were melted into tears; nor did our sorrow subside, until we had been some days at sea.

My Father, with great regard, took leave of Fanny Tyler, who attended us to England; and of honest Anthony (my brother Edwin's servant) who was going over, to take possession of a comfortable farm settled on him by my Father, agreeable to his beloved master's last request.

Here, Mrs. Montague, you must allow me to introduce a circumstance relative to that faithful Fanny, (although I am persuaded you are already prejudiced in her favour, from her great attachment to our family)

which must raise her considerably in your esteem; as such distinguished gratitude is seldom to be met with.

The charms of Fanny (who really was a fine young woman) had long made a deep impression on the heart of Mr. Brown, who had preserved Louisa; and no sooner did he hear of her intended return to England, than he applied to my Father for permission to solicit her in marriage, which was not, you may be sure, refused. Fanny was by no means insensible to the merit of Mr. Brown, but rather entertained a partiality for him, which was no secret in the family; yet she refused his offer with the greatest civility and unaffected modesty.

Every one was of course surprized, but my Father, in particular, who offered

ferred her a sufficient sum of money to purchase a lieutenancy for Brown, if she would consent to be his wife. Fanny falling on her knees, expressed her acknowledgments for his goodness, but entreated of him, in the strongest terms, not to force her from his children. Such an uncommon instance of gratitude and fidelity touched my Father exceedingly; and he gave up any farther solicitations to her on the subject.

Mr. Brown now applied to Lady Hunter, to be an advocate for him, which she with great good nature undertook; representing to Fanny the advantage of such a match, with a young man in the line of a gentleman, who probably from his merit, might in a few years rise to a superior rank than what he at present held.

Fanny, in the most respectful terms, thanked Lady Hunter for her interference; but assured her, "although Mr. Brown was by no means indifferent to her, and that she could have no objection to him for a husband, yet it was her fixt resolution, never voluntarily to quit the children of her honoured and ever to be lamented benefactress, whilst they were of an age to want her care."

Lady Hunter was lost in admiration of her generous sentiments; and took some pains to reconcile Mr. Brown to an acquiescence in Fanny's resolution: with great reluctance he submitted to it; and after exchanging vows of everlasting constancy, these deserving lovers took an affectionate adieu.

The

The parting between such friends as my Father and Sir William Hunter, drew the attention of all who were present. They expressed their attachment in the strongest terms, and in such pathetic language, that overpowered Lady Hunter and those who heard them. They gazed on each other for some minutes, with a look expressive of their feelings, the tear of friendship starting from their eyes: as they embraced; when breaking suddenly away, they at the same instant exclaimed, "Farewell, perhaps for ever."

I had almost forgot to inform you, that Louisa and I paid several visits to Mr. and Mrs. Breynton, whilst we continued at New York, and had the pleasure of entertaining them at my Father's house, as soon as his health

and situation admitted of it. His acknowledgments for their attention to his children, he expressed in the most feeling manner ; and forced on them several valuable presents, as a token of his regard and gratitude.

When Louisa and I went to take our final leave of that worthy couple, their expressions of affection were beyond what could be expected from persons so little connected with us : they wept as if we were their children ; and giving us some trinkets to preserve the remembrance of their love, we parted, overcome with grief at their uncommon tenderness.

The ship we embarked in had now spread her sails, and we bid an everlasting farewell to that shore, which had been so inimical to the Bellmour family,

family, and where I had resided above three years; during which, (except some months after our first arrival at Boston) I can with truth aver, that my heart was scarcely for one week disengaged from sorrow.

The day after we sailed from New York, Sir William Hunter called us upon deck, to view the most awful sight to be conceived:—a ship at a considerable distance from us, all in flames.—We were not near enough to distinguish particularly the horrors of the scene, or to hear the shrieks of the unhappy sufferers on board, just upon the point of launching into eternity.

Fanny no sooner turned her eyes to this distress, than she cast a look of most expressive pity on poor Louisa and me; dropping a tributary tear to
the

the memory of her honoured mistress : but when I viewed the fire, which brought so strongly to my remembrance my Mother's dismal fate, my agonies of grief were too powerful, and forced me off the deck.

Louisa, with great attention, for some minutes surveyed the burning ship ; and, in the most extravagant transports of joy, ran to Lady Hunter, Sir William and Fanny, by turns, exclaiming, “ There is Mamma !— she will soon come to Louisa ; are not you glad, Fanny ? ” For some time did she wait the event of her fond and childish expectations ; but when she saw the flames extinguished, by the sinking of the ship, the disappointment filled her little heart with so much sorrow, that placing her head on Lady Hunter's lap, she wept herself to sleep.

Every

Every one on board was sensibly touched by the extraordinary idea of the child; and Sir William repented exceedingly, having been the cause of so much distress, by calling us on deck to view the fire.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

FOR the first month of our voyage, the winds were favourable; the weather mild; our companions (who consisted principally of officers returning to England to recruit) in general agreeable; and every thing seemed propitious to our wish: but this pleasing tranquillity soon vanished, cruel Fate not being yet sufficiently satisfied with afflicting poor Georgina.

Among the officers who were on board, was a Lieutenant of the name of Douglas, a native of North-Briton, who had, on his first arrival at Boston, paid his addreses to Lady Hunter.— And though she had not given him the least

least encouragement to authorise his taking such a step, had applied to Mr Hamilton for his consent to an alliance with her.

From what has been already related of that gentleman, it may be easily supposed, he rejected an offer so little for the advantage of his daughter, against whom, he expressed the highest dissatisfaction, for having encouraged such a thought in Mr. Douglas. But Miss Hamilton assuring her Father, that so far from encouraging the gentleman to apply to him on so interesting a subject, she had not the smallest predilection in his favor, he immediately wrote a letter, forbidding him to visit at his house. Mr. Douglas, of course, was under the necessity of obeying this injunction, but still his love continued for the Lady; and when, in some months

months after, he saw Sir William Hunter so much distinguished, as to obtain the honour of her hand, his dislike to him became inveterate.

Unfortunately did Mr. Douglas take his passage on board the ship with Sir William and Lady Hunter, where he had frequent opportunities of being witness to his rival's happiness: a circumstance which much increased his former hatred, and roused up such a jealous passion in his breast, that he most ardently languished for an occasion of giving vent to his resentment.

Mr. Douglas was naturally hot and violent; passionately fond of liquor; and in his moments of intoxication, ever displayed an unbounded petulance of temper. The mildness of Sir William's disposition, on the contrary;
his

his remarkable temperance; and his great politeness to every person (especially to Mr. Douglas, whose foibles he highly pitied) placed him, as might have been supposed, in very little danger of becoming a victim to the other's ungovernable passion; yet the event too plainly proved, that his virtues were not a sufficient shield against the effects of disappointed love, irritated by the force of wine.

On the fatal day which overturned the happiness of our society, Mr. Douglas had, after dinner, indulged himself more freely with the bottle, than even was his usual custom; and as he was beginning to be troublesome, the gentlemen proposed going upon deck, as it was a very fine evening; leaving Lady Hunter and the other female passengers in the cabin.

After

After being some time on deck, an officer of the name of Clarke, who had a remarkable fine voice, was prevailed on to sing the favourite song of "Ah! Gramachree ma Molly," which he executed in so masterly a style, that every one was charmed with the performance.

When the song was finished, some of the gentlemen declared their admiration of the tune, saying, "That all the Irish compositions were of a pleasing melancholy cast." On which Mr. Douglas instantly affirmed, "That the tune sung by Mr. Clarke, was Scotch and not Irish, as the latter were incapable of such a composition."

With great modesty and politeness Sir William Hunter replied, "He had always understood it to be an Irish
tune;

tune; that from a comparison between the compositions of the two countries, and from the trifling skill he himself pretended to in the science of music, he believed, with all deference to Mr. Douglas's opinion, that the tune in question originated from an Irish bard."

Mr. Douglas, fired by a contradiction to his assertion, although conveyed in the most polite and gentle terms; and irritated at receiving that contradiction from the man his soul abhorred, with a savage fierceness, told Sir William Hunter, "He was a liar."

All the gentlemen upon deck stood, for some time, as if in a state of petrification, at such an expression falling from the tongue of one officer to another, which not even the violent temper of Mr. Douglas could authorise.

Sir

Sir William, with a smile, replied, "He should not fail to acknowledge his politeness, whenever they arrived in England; and should not so long defer it, did not the circumscribed spot they then stood in, put it out of his power to return the compliment he had so little merited, without alarming Lady Hunter, and the other females on board."—So saying, he made a low bow, and retired to the cabin, where he was scarcely entered, when Douglas followed with a drawn sword in his hand, taken from the steerage: his countenance being an exact and terrifying representation of a figure pictured for a fury; and with a voice almost suppressed with rage, exclaiming, "I again repeat you are a liar; and I will add, a coward, if you do not this instant take your threatened satisfaction."

Sir

Sir William seeing his furious antagonist advancing to him, hastily snatched up a sword, from under the cabin window, to defend his life; but before he had sufficient time (after drawing it) to place himself in a posture of defence, the savage Douglas penetrated through the heart of this amiable and deserving man; and he fell breathless into the arms of his adored wife, who had sprung forward, to prevent, if possible, the fury of the ruffian from having an effect; in attempting which she received a trifling wound in her shoulder from one of the swords.

No sooner had the gentlemen upon deck recovered from their surprize, at the unwarrantable behaviour of Mr. Douglas, and missed him from among them, than they instantly flew down,
in

in order to prevent any further consequence from his brutal passion, by putting him in confinement :—but as this tragedy was little more than a minute in the performance, they were, alas ! too late for any part, but to hear the piercing shrieks of me and all the other females in the cabin ; and to see Lady Hunter, with the body of her beloved husband, lie senseless on the floor.

The different emotions of horror, surprize and compassion, predominant in the countenances of these gentlemen, on surveying such a scene of woe, are scarcely to be described ; and though the horrible affair was by no means equal to what I had been a witness of, when I lost my Mother, yet you may be assured, I was not an unmoved spectator of it, as I entertained a
most

most sincere affection, nay a love for Sir William Hunter, on account of his uncommon attachment to my Father and his family.

Louisa was most fortunately asleep, during the whole of this catastrophe; otherwise it is impossible to say, what might have been the consequence of her terror, as she doated on Sir William, nearly, as if he had been her parent; and it required some address, for several days after, to find excuses for his absence, as she was continually inquiring after him.

Although I was then but just arrived at my tenth year, I could very seriously reflect on the dreadful consequences of excessive drinking, which could so much rouse the passions, as to stimulate a being, to whom Provi-

dence had given every rational faculty, to deprive a fellow creature of his life, without any other provocation for so doing, than what his phrensy suggested to him;—and that so instantaneous, as not to give the unhappy object of his fury an opportunity to solicit pardon from his Creator.

“ Cut off even in the blossoms of *his* fin;
No reck’ning made ! but sent to *his* account
With all *his* imperfections on *his* head.”

SHAKESPEARE.

No sooner had Mr. Douglas committed this rash action, than his senses instantly returned, and Reason re-assumed its station: he was petrified with horror, and for some moments stood gazing on the breathless work of his own hand; then, throwing himself
on

on the bleeding body, poured forth the most heart-felt lamentations which such an act could possibly excite :— nor was it an easy matter to force him from it, to a place fitted up at some distance from the cabin, that he might not add to the distress of the afflicted widow, by hearing him incessantly calling on her murdered husband ; and imprecating the most dreadful curses on his own guilty head, for having been the perpetrator of so foul a deed.

The wretched Lady Hunter was with some difficulty torn from the lifeless body and conveyed to bed, where her wound was dressed by Mr. Cunningham, a surgeon of great skill and humanity, who happened luckily to be a passenger on board.

During the whole night she remained in silent sorrow, without uttering a single word, or giving vent to her grief by tears; but the sighs which repeatedly broke from her, pierced the heart of every hearer.

When Mr. Cunninghame, in the morning, visited her, he was alarmed at her situation, and declared his apprehensions, unless by some means he could ease the oppression of her mind; to effect which, he mentioned to her, in the most pathetic terms, all the circumstances of Sir William Hunter's fate; his efforts were however useless, as she seemed insensible to his words, and the spring from whence her tears should flow, appeared dried up for ever.

This not answering his purpose, he
had

had her removed to the spot where the body of her husband lay; when the melancholy remedy produced the desired effect, for no sooner did she place her eyes on that beloved object, than she wept abundantly.

Mr. Cunninghame alone would have been a witness of this affecting scene, had not the wretched Douglas overheard her mournful lamentations, and, forcing his way to the spot of sorrow, thrown himself at her feet, to pour forth the agonies which preyed upon his soul: he entreated her, if possible, “not to curse the bloody assassin of her husband; the source of all her misery; and the veriest wretch that ever crawled upon the earth.”

His unexpected appearance added sensibly to her flow of tears, and struck

her with the deepest anguish.—After spending near an hour in giving vent to the affliction of her heart, over the clay-cold body, she gave it her last embrace, and retired to her cabin, there to indulge her grief in private; entreating of the gentlemen on board to be so charitable, as not to allow her being again tortured by the presence of Mr. Douglas.

This request was readily complied with, by placing a guard over him both by night and day; which precaution was become doubly necessary, from his having, in his fits of raving, attempted to destroy himself.

The situation of this unhappy man was now become so truly wretched, that from being an object of universal detestation,

detestation, he demanded our tenderest compassion.

It may easily be supposed, that the remainder of our voyage was clouded with a settled melancholy, as Lady Hunter's situation would not allow the indulgence of those amusements in the cabin, which, before this fatal accident, employed the company: at the end of fourteen days, however, we arrived at Plymouth, where the corpse of the late Sir William Hunter was landed, and received by the troops quartered there with military honors, and every mark of respect due to an Officer of his distinguished merit. It was conducted through the town of Plymouth, in the highest funeral parade, and from thence conveyed to Warwickshire, to be interred amongst his ancestors.

The wretched Douglas was conducted to London, to take his trial at the first session of the Admiralty; but as no one was present at the horrid deed, but Lady Hunter, me, and some other females (none of whom appeared to prosecute) he was only found guilty of manslaughter; he, however, sold out immediately from the army, and retired to an obscure place in Scotland; where, I have been told, he has never enjoyed an hour's comfort, the recollection of being the cause of putting an end to the existence of so worthy a man, as Sir William Hunter, in the heat of passion and intoxication, for ever destroying his peace of mind.

Upon our arrival at Plymouth, I wrote to the Dowager Lady Avondale, to inform her of it; mentioning
the

the impossibility of leaving Lady Hunter, on account of the ill state of her health, which would require her continuance at Plymouth some days, before she could undertake a journey to London, to deliver up her charge.

I also gave the Dowager the account of Sir William's shocking fate, in the best manner I then was capable; and that Lady Hunter was thrown into a strange country, without one relation or friend to sooth her affliction; or even the comfort of a female acquaintance, except what arose from mine and poor Louisa's feeble endeavours.

No sooner did the Dowager Lady Avondale receive my letter, than with a benignity distinguishing all the actions of her life, she set off for Ply-

mouth, to offer every consolation and assistance in her power to the afflicted stranger. On her arrival, she embraced Louisa and me, with the strongest marks of maternal love; weeping over us for some time, on the recollection of our being nearly orphans; and at the fatal cause of our being so.

As soon as she had a little recovered from this affecting interview, taking me in one hand, and Louisa in the other, she went with us to Lady Hunter's chamber; and with a frankness and true politeness, ever characterising the real woman of quality, introduced herself; offering with all the ease and good nature of an old acquaintance, to the unfortunate American, her most sincere and hearty services. Lady Hunter instantly felt the power of her bewitching

witching manners, and even at the first interview, found herself attached to the good and amiable old Lady.

The appearance of Lady Hunter, in a very high degree, entitled her to the favourable opinion of the Dowager, even if her late misfortune had not pleaded for her. No wonder then, that she so soon entertained a partial fondness for her, and used every argument to prevail on this charming woman, to make an asylum of her house, until her health and spirits were tolerably established; adding as an inducement, that by being together, they could jointly form a plan for the education of Louisa and me, as she was willing to resign the care of one of us to her, since she found from Colonel Bellmour, it was her wish to take that trouble.

Lady Hunter was too well bred, not to accept of an offer made with such unaffected sincerity; therefore, as soon as her health would admit it, we all set off for London, and, by easy stages, arrived the fourth day at the Dowager Lady Avondale's house in Portman Square.

On the day after our arrival in London, Miss Southern and my Sister Emma were brought from Camden-House to visit us: Emma flew with an unbounded transport of joy to embrace her Sisters, after so long a separation: And we, it may readily be believed, made a suitable return to her affection.—This excess of joy was, however, too soon clouded, when we surveyed the dress in which we all were clad, and recollected it to be an emblematic habit for a loss, we all had
reason

reason to lament.—The effect was instantaneous, the three Sisters bursting into a flood of tears, and Miss Southern, by sympathy, joined in our distress, having been taught ever to regard us with a Sister's love: and the feeling hearts of the Dowager and Lady Hunter were most sensibly touched by such a moving interview.

When our grief had subsided, and I had leisure to survey my Sister Emma's person, and remark the disposition of her mind, I with an unspeakable satisfaction perceived, that in forming her, Nature had been, in every respect, most bountiful. Her stature promised to be rather below the middle size, and her limbs were in the most exact proportion of symmetry; her features beautiful to a degree; her eyes blue and soft; her
nose

nose aquiline ; her mouth small, with a pleasing smile whenever she spoke, that discovered a set of teeth like ivory ; her complexion exquisitely fair, with a shade of the palest rose upon her cheeks ; and flaxen hair, which in natural ringlets hung about her face and neck : to complete the whole, her disposition was the most gentle and engaging ever possessed by a human form.

Had not Miss Southern been the constant companion of my sister, she must have been considered a pleasing beauty ; but, even under that disadvantage, she had a most elegant figure, and might with infinite justice be called extremely handsome : she was amiable and placid in her temper, with spirits nearly equal to Louisa.

These

These two charming girls having staid a fortnight at Portman-square, returned to Camden-house, whither Louisa and I accompanied them, to begin our course of education.

And here, my dear Mrs. Montague, I will make a pause, as I am about to enter on a period which I shall ever consider the most happy in my life; and what I had hitherto been, from various accidents, but very little accustomed to :—although so young, you must remember, I had often tasted the bitter cup of sorrow and affliction.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

HAVING wrote to my Brother on my arrival at Plymouth, I received his answer from Ireland, a few days before I went to Camden-house, in which, after congratulating Louisa and me on our safe arrival from America, and expressing his affection in the warmest terms, he promised, as soon as the long vacation of the university commenced (which would in a short time be the case) he would set out for London, to have the happiness of embracing his beloved sisters, having obtained the approbation of his protector, Mr. Miller, for that purpose;—it being my Father's positive injunction, that he should take no
step

step of moment, whilst he continued in Ireland, without consulting that worthy gentleman, and having his consent.

As Henry had been in England, during the long vacation of last year, to pay his respects to the Dowager Lady Avondale and Emma, the pleasing accounts I received of him, from them and Miss Southern, exclusive of my affection, made Louisa and me quite impatient to see him ; reckoning every hour an age until he came.

At length the wished for day arrived, when he hastened to Camden-house, and threw himself into the arms of his sisters ; but the happiness we should have enjoyed in meeting, was considerably allayed by the sad remembrance of our late misfortunes :
—when

—when Louisa ran to his embrace, he was so much struck with her resemblance to our lamented mother, that he could not suppress his tears, as he clasped the little innocent to his bosom.

I was charmed with the elegant appearance of my Brother, his manners were so like the man of fashion, and his polite attention to his sisters, (and indeed to every female) so natural and unaffected: he was by no means so lively as poor Edwin had been, which probably arose from the recollection of the unhappy incidents in our family, yet he was perfectly pleasing in every thing he said or did: he often obliged us with his company at Camden-house, and every Sunday at the Dowager Lady Avondale's, where Miss Southern, Emma, Louisa
and

and I constantly dined : Edward Southern, who was at Westminster-school, always made one of this happy society : he was a very fine boy, about two years older than his sister, endowed with a most lively and amiable disposition.

In the frequent visits we made to Portman-square, I was rather surprised, that I had never met with, or heard a word of Lord and Lady Avondale or any of their children ; this I mentioned to Miss Southern, who informed me, “ it was above a year, since a coolness commenced on the part of her Grandmother to Lady Avondale, who had before been extremely deficient in respect to the Dowager, whose displeasure and resentment was suppressed out of affection to her Son ; but her disrespect at length becoming insolence,

solence, the Dowager could not, without descending from her dignity, permit it longer to pass unnoticed, and, therefore, forbad her visits in future at her house: that I might easily suppose how unpardonable the conduct of Lady Avondale must have been, when it could induce a woman of the Dowager's gentle and placid disposition, to adopt so violent a measure, towards the wife of a beloved son: that her Uncle, Lord Avondale, being totally absorbed in the dissipation of the gay world, seldom payed a visit to his Mother, leaving the management of his son and daughter to his lady, who, by way of retaliation, would not allow either to see their Grandmother; which injunction, however, Lord Hume disobeyed, whenever he could do it without his Mother's knowledge: —but he was now at an academy in
France.

France to finish his education, agreeable to her plan; that Lady Avondale's dislike to her husband's family was so determined, she had removed Lord Hume to Eton, from Westminster school, as soon as she was informed that Edward Southern was educated at the latter, least an intimacy should commence between the boys; that Lord Hume, in spite of his Mother, was a most promising youth, like Henry Bellmour in several respects." Miss Southern concluded her relation of this family, by adding, "that Lady Cordelia Hume was two years older than her brother, and inherited all the foibles of her mother; but possessed more personal beauty and a better share of understanding."

I was much obliged by this account, as it guarded me against asking

ing questions in Portman-square, which might have given pain to the worthy Dowager ; whom I could not but highly pity, for being deprived of those comforts and gratifications from her children, which the excellence of her disposition entitled her to expect.

In about two months after Louisa and I went to Camden-house, the Dowager thought proper to take Miss Southern and Miss Bellmour entirely from school, to finish their education under her own inspection.

The distress which took place among the young ladies in the school, when the departure of these two girls was announced, appeared astonishing ; for the two days preceding that on which they were to go, every little heart was swelled with sorrow ; but
when

when the Dowager arrived to bear away our adored companions, with a profusion of trinkets for Juliana and Emma to distribute among their school-fellows, grief was conspicuous on every countenance; and when the inter change commenced of little keepsakes, an universal burst of tears and sobs broke forth; such a scene of distress had never been exhibited before at Camden-house, on any like occasion; and did not fail to impress the Dowager with the most favourable ideas of the temper and disposition of these two young ladies.

Henry, after enjoying the satisfaction of his sister's and Miss Southern's company for six weeks in Portman-square, returned to Ireland to attend his college duties.

It

It might have been supposed, that the variety of company which Lady Hunter saw at the Dowager Lady Avondale's, with the constant society she now enjoyed of two such pleasing girls, as Miss Southern and Miss Bellmour, would so far have contributed to the restoration of her spirits, that her friends might indulge a hope, of her being able to throw off in time, the cloud of melancholy which always was apparent in her countenance; but it produced no such effect, grief having taken too powerful a possession of her mind, and preyed most greedily upon her tender frame. The Dowager with great concern remarked her situation, and repeatedly made use of every argument, to convince her of the injury she was doing to her constitution, by indulging such an unavailing melancholy; notwithstanding which,

which, her decline was so very visible, the Dowager would no longer delay consulting the opinion of her physician, Sir Richard ———, who declared Lady Hunter to be in so precarious a state of health, it was absolutely necessary she should lose no time in going to Bristol-wells, where the Dowager, Miss Southern, and Miss Bellmour, immediately accompanied her; and had the satisfaction to perceive, before the expiration of a month, that the waters of those wells, with the exercise she daily used, had improved her health so much, that unless she was obstinately bent upon her own destruction, it was impossible but she must recover.

The Dowager being determined, on giving as little opportunity as possible, to the indulgence of that affliction,

tion, which was the occasion of her illness, by keeping her mind employed in a constant round of innocent dissipation, removed this friendly party to Bath, after continuing another month at Bristol.

As Lady Hunter was in weeds, and therefore could not attend the balls, and the two young ladies not of an age to appear in public, the Dowager would not partake of those amusements, as she did not wish to leave her to her own reflections, even for a moment; but they all constantly attended at the pump-room, public walks, and private parties, which were every day made in compliment to the Dowager and her friends.

Lady Hunter soon became the admiration of every one at Bath; her beauty,

beauty, dignified by an air of unaffected melancholy, which always overspread her countenance, added to the recollection of the fatal cause of her affliction, gained her a general respect, and rendered her the theme of every company.

The tragic cause of Emma's being also clothed in a sable habit, soon was known at Bath, and excited the curiosity of crowds to follow them whenever they appeared abroad: in this attraction it is, however, probable, the charms of their persons obtained a greater share of pity for them, than even their misfortunes.

Whilst our friends were busied in the pursuit of health and pleasure, at Bath and Bristol, Louisa and I applied ourselves with most uncommon dili-

gence to our different studies, that the Dowager and Lady Hunter might, at their return, be surprized at our improvement.

Notwithstanding the vivacity of Louisa's disposition, she received every thing taught her with astonishing facility, her genius being uncommonly great, for all the arts and sciences, which the plan for our education pointed out; but more particularly so for music and dancing, in both of which she promised to excel, as Nature had given her a most enchanting voice, and a peculiar elegance in the formation of her shape and limbs.

Our friends at length returned to London, and expressed the most heartfelt satisfaction at the progress we had made in the different accomplishments,

ments, which greatly overpaid us for our unremitted pains.

During a period of near four years, nothing of moment took place amongst those, who were particularly under the auspices of the Dowager Lady Avondale ;—Louisa and I continued at Camden-house, acquiring every improvement to be obtained, whilst Miss Southern and Emma were receiving that addition to their accomplishments, which their maturer years demanded :—my brother pursued his studies at Dublin university, until he took his degree ; whilst Edward Southern did the same at Cambridge.

Every vacation, this family-party (as it might well be called, from the harmony subsisting between them) as-

sembled at the Dowager's house in London or Yorkshire; or else at Lady Hunter's seat in Warwickshire, which, with a very considerable jointure, was left to her by Sir William.

During the first three years of her widowhood, several men of rank and fortune made overtures of marriage to her, but her heart was too strongly attached to the memory of her adored and amiable Sir William, ever to admit a thought of altering her condition:—the friendship also between her and the Dowager Lady Avondale, was so firmly cemented, that they became absolutely necessary to each others happiness, notwithstanding their disparity of years; and resolved never to separate until the hand of Providence intervened.

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On one of these family-excursions into Yorkshire, it occurred to my Brother, that the retreat given by my Father to honest Anthony, was little more than two miles out of the road; and, as a small town was near it, there could be no danger, but we should meet with tolerable accommodations for one night.

Louisa and I, you may well suppose, rejoiced at an opportunity of seeing the faithful servant of our beloved Edwin, of whose attachment to the family, we in particular had known so many proofs.

The Dowager being pleased at this instance of our good nature, readily agreed to Henry's proposal, and we accordingly stopped at H——, when

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a messenger

a messenger was dispatched to inform Anthony of our arrival, and to require his attendance :—he, like a good soldier, instantly obeyed, and evidently proved the grateful feelings of his heart, by the tears of transport which fell down his furrowed cheeks, on seeing the children of his honoured benefactor :—but when Henry took him by the hand, the old man's joy changed into an agony of distress, exclaiming, “ Oh ! my beloved master—do I live again to see your likeness—it is too much for poor old Anthony :”—he wept most bitterly ; and this affecting interview drew tears from every eye.

As soon as this grateful servant had a little recovered from his affliction, he asked a thousand questions about my Father, and, in particular, “ when we
might

might expect him from that accursed country, which had been the cause of so much misery to the family?"—Then, with a bow of infinite respect and modesty, hoped, "as we had come so near his cottage, we would not go away without his having the comfort of seeing us in it:—it was clean he did assure us:—and though he was not a gentleman, yet he could give us as good a breakfast in it, as could be got in all the country:—he hoped we would not refuse him, as such an honour would revive his aged heart, and add some years to his declining life."

The sincerity of Anthony's address so sensibly touched the company, that at the same instant, every eye was fix-

ed upon the Dowager;—she at once guessing at our meaning, turned to Anthony, and with a smile addressed him: “Well, honest Anthony, you shall enjoy the pleasure of seeing your children at your cottage:—we will all, to-morrow, accept your breakfast at nine o’clock:—I respect your character, and wish to make you happy.”

His exultation was apparent, on receiving this assurance, and he retired, exclaiming, “God bless your Ladyship:—Oh! my sweet children.”—In a few minutes he returned; and, going up to Lady Hunter, with great respect, addressed her: “Madam, I beg your pardon—I did not really recollect you, until Mrs. Fanny told me who you were, you are so much
altered

altered since last I saw you:—I wish you well, because she tells me you love these children;—and hope you will come with them, to-morrow, to my homely hut;—you shall indeed be welcome.”

Lady Hunter, with infinite affability, assented to his request; and having now settled every thing with us to his heart's content, this deserving creature retired into a room with Fanny, there more fully to satisfy himself in every enquiry about the family.

The next morning we set forward for his habitation, most enchantingly situated, on the side of a hill, at the foot of which ran a winding river:—a wood, at no great distance, terminated the view on the right and rear;

through the latter of which appeared the ruins of an extensive castle :—on the left was a prospect of the town we stopped at ; and, a little to the right of it (one mile nearer) of a small village, with a very neat church and spire.

The cottage consisted of a kitchen and one room below, with two chambers above, all furnished with the utmost exactness and real neatness ; particularly that opposite the kitchen, which was his state room, and ornamented with the heads of all the eminent generals and admirals, who had distinguished themselves in his remembrance.

The spaces between these heads were adorned with swords and bayonets (cut out of wood, and painted in so natural

natural a manner, as almost to deceive the eye) disposed of in the form of stars, half-moons, and other devices, with several military trophies, having a very pleasing effect.

But what demanded the greatest attention, was the sword poor Edwin had bequeathed him, conspicuously fixed in a gilded stand over the chimney-piece, and surrounded by a foliage of laurels, carved in wood and properly painted:—this sword was so secured by a hasp and lock, out of sight, that no one but Anthony himself could remove it.

All the chairs and tables in this room were of the camp kind, as were those in the chambers, in which were bedsteads of the same construction:—

in

in short, every thing about the house shewed his attachment to the military profession.

Even out of doors the same passion was predominant; for, in the front of the cottage, was a small piece of ground, defended by a wall about breast high, laid out with low box hedges, describing the form of a regular fortification, in which he raised a constant succession of the most curious flowers:—his garden likewise, at a little distance from the house, was inclosed by a very thick quickset hedge, cut into several embrasures, out of which appeared wooden cannon fixed on carriages, representing real ones.

In this retreat did the deserving veteran employ his time, in the cultivation

tion of his garden and flowers, with no other society but a dog he brought from America, and an antient maiden sister, whom the benevolent Anthony had invited from the North of England, to rescue her from a state of wretched poverty.

After taking a survey of this happy spot, a breakfast of tea and coffee, accompanied by every other requisite, was served up with a degree of decency and satisfaction, that would not have disgraced a nobler habitation, as the keenness of our appetites most perfectly evinced:—Fanny and our other servants were likewise entertained, with the utmost hospitality and attention.

Having spent some time after breakfast, in giving pleasure and gratification

to

to the heart of this respected servant, we took our leave, assuring him of our constant friendship and regard; the good old man not being able to refrain from tears, whilst he poured forth a thousand blessings on the children of his honoured benefactor, and wished us every happiness this world could bestow.

Fanny having been by accident informed, that Anthony had, at his own expence, erected a monument to the memory of his young master, in the church of the village we were immediately to pass through, communicated the intelligence to Miss Bellmour, who easily prevailed upon the Dowager to stop a few minutes, until we shewed her another proof of the affection and gratitude of honest Anthony, who

who had been too modest to mention such a circumstance himself.

On entering the church, we were not a little surprized to see a very neat white marble monument, designed with some degree of taste, on which was the following inscription, wrote by the Rev. Dr. Usher, rector of the parish, at Anthony's request :

Sacred
to the memory of
E D W I N,
son of Colonel Augustus Bellmour,
a Youth
eminently distinguished for
Charity, Generosity,
and every other virtue
which could adorn a human mind :
being

being an Ensign in the
British Army
at Lexington, in North America,
on that fatal day
when hostilities commenced between
Great Britain and her Colonies,
he was, for his cool and intrepid bravery,
rewarded by the General,
with a Lieutenancy.
And, pursuing the path of glory,
was,
in the fifteenth year of his age,
killed at the attack of
Bunker's Hill,
on the 17th day of June, 1775,
having exhibited a calm and steady
courage,
which would have done honor to
the oldest soldier :
for, being first wounded in the arm,
he

he continued to encourage
his men;
nor would he quit his post,
until receiving another wound in
the body,
he fell through loss of blood,
and was carried off the field of battle to
Boston,
where his body lies interred.
He was universally regreted by the army,
as a youth
of most uncommon military abilities :
By his afflicted parents and relations,
as an ornament to his family :
and by his grateful and sorrowful servant
Anthony Finch,
as a kind and generous master.

Such a striking mark of affection
from a servant, could not fail to raise
Anthony

Anthony more high, if possible, in the opinion of us all, than even he before stood :—at the same time that the inscription roused up the recollection of a most beloved Brother ; and produced a tributary tear of sorrow, at the foot of a monument so justly bearing a record of his valour and those eminent private virtues, which he undoubtedly possessed.

The Dowager and Lady Hunter remained for some minutes in amazement, at the noble and generous sentiments shining forth in every act of Anthony ; but more particularly, when they were informed, that on the 17th of June every year, since he settled in the country, he pays the ringers of the parish a handsome gratuity, for performing

performing a muffled peal upon the
bells, to commemorate the death

“Of that brave youth, with love of virtue fir’d,
Who greatly in his country’s cause expir’d.”

ADDISON.

LETTER

L E T T E R X V .

AS soon as my brother Henry had taken his degree, he spent a few weeks with his protector, Mr. Miller, in the country; during which, he received an order from my Father, to place himself under the direction of the Dowager Lady Avondale, until Edward Southern had also taken his degree at Cambridge, and was ready to make the tour of Europe; when it was his wish that Henry should accompany him.

After taking an affectionate leave of Mr. and Mrs. Miller, he complied with his Father's desire; and as it was
necessary

necessary that more than a year should elapse, before Edward Southern could quit the university, Henry applied, during that time, with great diligence, to perfect himself in many polite accomplishments, in which he had only a superficial knowledge; and with infinite pleasure his friends perceived, that his attention to them answered their most sanguine expectations.

Henry being now a constant visitor at Portman-square, during the time he waited for Edward, it was no difficult matter (even to me, who was then a novice in such affairs) to perceive that he and Juliana Southern had a partial fondness for each other.

The Dowager, with satisfaction, remarked this growing passion, and soon informed

informed Lady Olivia Southern of her suspicions:—her answer was by no means discouraging, but she humorously advised her Mother, by all means, to keep the approbation of their friends to this attachment a perfect secret from the youngsters, least, like Colonel Bellmour and herself, they should take a pleasure (as was the case with them) in counter-acting the intentions of their parents:—my Father also offered pretty much the same advice, when (on being informed of his son's partiality to Miss Southern) he expressed a wish for the connexion, as soon as the parties were of a proper age.

The Dowager, who had experienced the full force of what her Daughter and my Father hinted, pretended not to observe the tender regard which
every

every day increased between this happy couple; and took uncommon pains to prevent every person in the family, from giving a suspicion of their being even noticed for a particular attachment.

Edward having completed his studies at Cambridge, soon prepared to attend my Brother on their purposed tour; and a gentleman being engaged to attend them, who, as well as a man of learning, was perfectly well acquainted with the world, (a circumstance too often neglected in the choice of travelling tutors) the day was fixed on for their departure; which being in a vacation time, Louisa and I happened to be at Portman-square.

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When

When these young men took leave, there was a general sorrow throughout the family, at the thought of being for three years to be deprived of the company of two such intimates, who were partakers and promoters of most of our playful amusements for some time past: —the separation between Henry and Juliana, was, to be sure, particularly affecting; and it appeared to me, that Emma and Edward felt more distress, when they gave their last farewell, than was the case, when they embraced their nearer relations.

In a few days, an account was received of these young men's arrival at Ostend; and during their continuance on the Continent, a constant correspondence was kept up, either with the Dowager, or some one of her family.

Soon

Soon after their departure, the Dowager removed me from Camden-house, thinking me of a proper age entirely to quit school; when I had the satisfaction to experience the same affection from my companions, which Miss Southern and Emma Bellmour had upon a like occasion.

Miss Southern having now attained her seventeenth year, the Dowager judged it a proper time for introducing her a little into public: and though Miss Bellmour was a year younger, yet as they had hitherto gone hand-in-hand in every pursuit, she was unwilling, that so trifling a difference in age should now prevent their launching together, into what is called the world.

As the season was now approaching for it, she fixed on Tunbridge-Wells, as the place where the young ladies should make their first appearance:—the preparations for this great event were wonderful; and it may be well imagined, that their minds were much engrossed with an idea of those pleasures, which were upon the point of opening to their view:—their hearts exulted with secret joy and expectation; and they considered the delay of every hour a disappointment to the enjoyment of their wishes.

I could by no means at that time account for their anxiety previous to our journey, having often before seen them look forward to schemes of amusement, without discovering those impatient emotions which now appeared;

ed; but when such a period of life called me forth to exhibit in the manner they were about to do, I at once ceased to wonder at their feelings.

The Dowager, Lady Hunter, the two young Ladies, and your humble servant, at length arrived at Tunbridge, which was then full of genteel company, many of whom were our particular acquaintance; and, as there was a ball in two nights after, the Dowager, with pleasure sparkling in her eyes, attended my two companions to it:—they were both dressed in silver crape and pale blue ribbands, with all the other articles in their decorations, alike in every particular; and I may with truth affirm, without the imputation of partiality, that a more love-

ly pair never entered Tunbridge ball-room.

Lady Hunter, whose attention to me on all occasions was remarkable, being apprehensive I should feel an uneasiness, at being left at home, used every means to amuse my mind from such a thought, contriving an excuse, for not going to the ball, that I might not be alone : by some words, however, which accidentally escaped her, in the course of the evening, I was enabled to guess at the reason of this kind precaution, and took an opportunity of assuring her, ^{as} She knew but little of Georgina's disposition, otherwise she would be certain, envy was a perfect stranger to it ; that I well knew young ladies never appeared in public places, until they were of a certain age ; and so far from being uneasy,
at

at knowing my Sister and Friends were agreeably amused, although I could not partake of their pleasure, it always made me truly happy : entreating (though her Ladyship's company would at all times be very pleasing to me) she never would in future, absent herself from any place of amusement on my account : "—Scarcely had I finished these words, which were truly the honest dictates of my heart, than this amiable woman pressed me to her bosom, with uncommon tenderness, and exclaimed, " Oh ! Georgina, you are a charming girl ; how am I delighted at your benevolent and generous sentiments !"

My dear Mrs. Montague will doubtless be anxious to hear, what was the reception of my fair relations on their first essay in public ; therefore, to

put you out of all suspense, I will inform you, that the instant the Dowager Lady Avondale entered the ball-room, every eye was turned to her, and all were struck with admiration of her lovely wards.

Scarcely were they seated, when Lord Abberville, son to the Earl of Broomsgrove, entered; he was not long returned from his travels; was handsome, elegant, sensible, accomplished, and was the favourite of all the ladies at the Wells—no wonder then, that at his appearance, every female heart began to flutter, in expectation of being the distinguished partner of his choice, in the amusement of the evening.

He, with Sir Charles Loftus, who seemed his intimate, took a circuit round the room, to pay compliments
to

to the ladies of their acquaintance—when they came near to the part where Juliana and Emma were seated, Lord Abberville stopt, started, and gazed for some moments; when, recollecting himself, he blushed, and in great confusion moved on, not without suffering some degree of raillery from his friend, who, as well as several others, had remarked his embarrassed situation.

Soon after the minuets began, Miss Southern was taken out, and acquitted herself with the universal approbation of so large and polite a meeting; notwithstanding the blush of diffidence natural to every young lady, when first she stands forth to public view.—It is, indeed, a trying and awful moment of our life!—Miss Southern's minuet must have remained unrival-

ed for the night, had not Emma followed her, whose graceful movements, in spite of her apparent feelings on the occasion, entitled her rather to a superior degree of applause.

Before the minuets were ended, Lord Abberville, accompanied by the Master of the Ceremonies, advanced to Emma, and solicited the honor of her hand for the evening; Colonel Manners, a gentleman of fashion and elegant appearance, entreating the same of Juliana.

These engagements were no sooner observed, than the malignant fiend, called Envy, soon was visible in the countenance of all the men and women present, who had formed a hope of being partners to these admired personages.

Before

Before the evening was concluded, Lord Abberville recollected, that previous to his going abroad, he had often seen the Dowager Countess of Avondale at Mr. Southern's, with whose family he was extremely intimate; and availing himself of the recognition, solicited permission to visit at her house.

When the Dowager and her young friends returned from the ball, they expressed the highest satisfaction at their evening's entertainment; Juliana not forgetting to rally Emma, upon the extraordinary attention of Lord Abberville.

At the next ball Lady Hunter made one of the party, and did not pass without her share of admiration: but not even the brilliancy of the com-

pany, nor the pleasure she enjoyed, in seeing her two young friends so highly distinguished, could dispel the melancholy which overpowered her, ever since the death of the most amiable Sir William Hunter. This dejection of spirits raised her character in the general opinion of the world, and gained her many friends; discouraging at the same time the importunities of lovers.

Lord Abberville and Colonel Manners again danced with Emma and Juliana; a circumstance full sufficient, at a water-drinking place, to establish an opinion of their being enamoured with those ladies: but seriously, during the remainder of our stay at Tunbridge, for about a month, his Lordship's whole time and attention were chiefly given up to my sister Emma.

Being

Being tired with the amusements of Tunbridge; and the Dowager wishing to vary the scene, we removed to Brighthelmstone, where Lord Abberville on the next day followed, and continued his assiduities to Emma, during our residence there, about three weeks more:—here also Lady Hunter, Miss Southern and Miss Bellmour were unanimously allowed the highest rank of beauty, which received a considerable lustre from the unaffected elegance of their deportment, on all occasions.

When the day arrived for beginning our journey to the Dowager's seat at Myrtle-grove, in Yorkshire, the sadness which overcast the gentle Emma's countenance was too visible, not to betray her having listened with great attention to the accomplished noble-

nobleman: she heaved a tender sigh, when she bid adieu to him, and it was with difficulty, she could suppress a starting tear.

"But who can paint the lover, as he stood,
Pierced by severe affliction, hating life,
Speechless, and fix'd in all the death of woe?"

THOMPSON.

Before we quitted Brighthelmstone, the Dowager gave a polite invitation to Lord Abberville to visit at her house, when she returned to London.

On our way through Yorkshire, we stopt a few days at Scarborough, and spent the remainder of the summer at Myrtle-grove.

In two days after our return to London, Lord Abberville paid his compliments

pliments in Portman-square; and never was joy more strongly pictured in any countenance, than on his, when my sister Emma entered the room; nor was her's without a pleasing degree of sensation:—before she appeared, he asked me several questions about her, and seemed to think of nothing else.

The day following this visit, we were much surprized at receiving one from the Earl of Broomsgrove, who after some trivial conversation and inquiries about Mr. and Lady Oliva Southern, asked the Dowager, “If either of the young ladies present was Miss Bellmour?” Upon being answered in the negative, and his Lordship expressing a desire to have the honor of being introduced to Emma, I was sent to call her.

The

The intelligence I communicated of Lord Broomsgrove's being in the drawing-room, and wishing to see her, was no small matter of surprize, as she had never heard of his visiting at the Dowager's, but once, about a year before: it had indeed such an effect, that I was obliged to give her some hartshorn and water, before she was sufficiently composed, to appear with any degree of unconcern before his Lordship.

Lord Broomsgrove, after being introduced to Emma, seemed to be most particularly struck with her appearance, and kept his eyes attentively fixt on her during the remainder of his visit.

On the following day, which happened to be Sunday, Lord Abberville joined us after our return from church,

and

and entreated of Lady Hunter to let him have the honour of attending her and the young ladies to Kensington, as it was a remarkable pleasant day for walking. She was easily prevailed on to do what she imagined would be agreeable to all parties, and we went in her coach to the gardens, accompanied by his Lordship: in a few minutes after our arrival there, we were joined by Colonel Manners, who had danced with Miss Southern twice at Tunbridge; and before we returned from Kensington, he obtained her leave to visit at her Grandmother's.

On our return home, we found the Dowager, who had been at Westminster Abbey: she begged of Lord Abberville to give her the honour of his company to dinner, which he readily consented to.

Whilst

Whilst Fanny was attending my dressing for dinner, she informed me, "That in some minutes after we went out in Lady Hunter's carriage, the Dowager returned from the Abbey, and inquired where we were all gone; that in a very short time after, Lord Broomsgrove arrived, and was introduced to the drawing-room, when her Ladyship immediately ordered herself to be denied to whatever company might call; that Lord Broomsgrove staid above an hour, and the Dowager sat down to write the instant he retired."

When Lord Abberville returned to dinner, his spirits were elevated to an unusual height; so much so indeed, that neither Lady Hunter, Emma, or Juliana, could divine the cause; as I had not made

made them participate in the intelligence I received from Fanny, who was so prudent to recommend my not mentioning Lord Broomsgrove's visit to any of the family, as the Dowager would herself undoubtedly divulge it, whenever she thought proper to do so.

When Lord Abberville took his leave, which was not until after supper, the Dowager desired Emma to attend her in her dressing-room, before she went to bed.

Lady Hunter and my two companions were much perplexed, to unravel the mystery of the Dowager's desiring a particular conference with her alone: various were their conjectures on the occasion, but the gentle Emma at length concluded, that her Ladyship

ship wanted to reprimand her, for some impropriety she had of late observed in her behaviour ; and being strongly impressed with this idea, it was with difficulty we could pacify her fears.

As I guessed at the true cause of the intended conference, which I was determined not to divulge on any account, the uneasiness of my mind was great, at perceiving the distress poor Emma suffered, from apprehensions I could at once have relieved her from : I must confess, the keeping such a secret was the most painful trial of that nature I had ever before, or have since experienced.

On the morning after this dreaded interview, which had caused such great uneasiness to my sister, she, some time before her usual hour of rising, came

to

to my bedside, from an impatience to make me a partaker in her felicity; and thus addressed me: "Think, Georgina, when instead of a reprimand from the Dowager last night, as I had fears would be the case, she informed me, that Lord Broomsgrove had been with her in the morning (agreeable to an appointment for that purpose) to obtain permission for Lord Abberville to pay me [his addressee, and that she had promised to use all her influence in his favour; that Lord Broomsgrove quitted her, with an intention of writing to my Father for his approbation of an alliance, as soon as he was assured of my sentiments upon it; and that she herself had begun a letter on the same subject, which she could not finish, until she was informed what were my wishes on the occasion.

Indeed,

Indeed, Georgina, I scarcely can remember the answer I gave the Dowager, my ideas were in such confusion; but do suppose it was a very simple one, as she often smiled whilst I was speaking, and seemed with difficulty to suppress a laugh.

As soon as Emma had finished the account of her last night's conversation with the Dowager, I congratulated her on the prospect of such happiness, asking her, "Now, my dearest sister, that you are free from all restraint, will you candidly inform me, what is the true situation of your heart, in respect to this young nobleman?" To which she answered, "I long have entertained a partial opinion of him, which I have endeavoured to restrain, being uncertain of a return, as he never has declared himself

self in direct terms my lover. I have therefore been inclined to consider all his assiduity to me, when at Tunbridge and Brighthelmstone, so much the effects of gallantry, that I was rather sorry, when the worthy Dowager invited him to renew his acquaintance with the family in London."

In the course of our conversation, I could not help dropping an expression of pity for Edward Southern; at which Emma seemed surprised, and begged an explanation. I informed her of my suspicions, in consequence of what I had remarked of their interview on taking leave. To this she replied, "That the affection they entertained for each other was absolutely nothing more, than what might naturally be expected from near relations, who had been like them, bred up

up so much together; and that my suspicion at their parting was entirely a delusive fancy."

Soon after breakfast the same day, Lady Broomsgrove payed her compliments to the Dowager and the other ladies of the family: she seemed about the age of forty-eight, and had still the remains of a very fine woman in her appearance; was perfectly affable and unaffected in her behaviour; and by report lived most happily with her Lord, whose character was also worthy of admiration. Their family consisted of two sons, besides Lord Abberville: one of whom was then a student at Cambridge, and the other at Eaton School. Lady Broomsgrove's visit was rather long for the first time; and she seemed to pay a particular attention to my sister Emma, who was highly pleased with her.

Lord

Lord Abberville's anxiety for answers to the letters wrote by the Dowager Lady Avondale and Lord Broomsgrove to my Father, proved the sincerity of his attachment to my sister, and his impatience for their speedy union; they, as soon as could be the case, arrived, and were favourable to the wishes of all parties; leaving the disposal of Emma entirely to the management of the Dowager Lady Avondale; so that Lord Abberville was now received at her Ladyship's, as the intended husband of Miss Bellmour; and nothing appeared to prevent the celebration of their nuptials, but his wanting some months to be of age, before which, he could not join his Father in making a proper settlement on my Sister.

During this interval of expectation, she, whilst in London for the winter

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months,

months, appeared very much in public, and was received with universal admiration; but her engagement with Lord Abberville being in general no secret, and as he most commonly attended her, she did not experience such professions of love from the admiring croud, as otherwise most probably might have been the case.

Before the conclusion of the spring, the Dowager, with her usual set of friends, removed to an elegant villa she lately purchased near Richmond Park, where she purposed to spend the summer, in compliment to Louisa, who made heavy complaints, for being left at school, during the long vacation of last year, in consequence of our rambles to Tunbridge, Bright-helmstone, and Yorkshire.

In

In the latter end of the autumn, the Dowager Lady Avondale and her family spent a most agreeable month, with Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, at their seat in the New Forrest, near Southampton: in which time, the wished-for day of Lord Abberville's being of age arrived, and was celebrated with every mark of joyful magnificence and festivity such an event required. The gardens and pleasure-grounds were in the evening most splendidly illuminated with variegated coloured lamps; and in different parts were beautiful transparencies, alluding to his approaching nuptials.

The crowd of company assembled on this occasion was astonishing: the exertions of Lord and Lady Broomsgrove for the entertainment of their friends, was spoke of in the highest

terms; and their sons were as equally as assiduous to please; particularly Lord Abberville, who seemed intoxicated at the happiness that day promised him, by accelerating his union with Miss Bellmour. It was remarked by every one; and her intimates, with a secret satisfaction, congratulated her on the pleasing prospect of being united to a most amiable young nobleman, who seemed to live but in her smiles.

Lord Broomsgrove, whose impatience was clearly visible, for having the marriage completed, as soon as possible, used the most indefatigable means in preparing the necessary writings for my Sister's settlement; and exerted himself in such a manner, that no delay should arise to his Son's hap-

happiness, by any neglect in the power of an affectionate parent to prevent.

The Dowager Lady Avondale was also anxious, as Colonel Bellmour had entrusted to her the disposal of his daughter, that nothing should be wanting on her part, to expedite an event, she had very much at heart; and which she was determined, should be celebrated at her seat at Richmond, with every degree of splendor, which her affection for Emma, and respect for our family required;—she therefore gave directions for several alterations in that house, and many other arrangements requisite on such a particular occasion.

L E T T E R X V I.

IT having been fixt between Lord Broomsgrave and the Dowager Lady Avondale, that the nuptials of his son and Miss Bellmour should take place, at the conclusion of a month, by which time, it was a certainty, every thing would be in readiness, Lord Abberville took the advantage of that delay to his happiness, to spend ten days at Bath, with a young gentleman, for whom he had contracted a most particular friendship, whilst at Cambridge; and who having afterwards embraced the military profession, was, in the pursuit of glory, severely wounded in America, and ordered home,

home, to try the effects of different baths, for the restoration of his health.

Lord and Lady Broomsgrove having likewise some affairs of consequence to transact, at his Lordship's estate in Devonshire, seized on this interval of time to settle them; and as they had entertained a very sincere attachment towards my sister Emma, they prevailed on the Dowager Lady Avondale, to allow her to accompany them on the excursion, for which they were the more sanguine, that they might enjoy the pleasure of agreeably surprising Lord Abberville, on his joining them at Broomsgrove-castle, (which he had faithfully promised he would do, in the course of a fortnight) as Miss Bellmour's being there was to be kept a secret from him; and the better to insure this intended

surprize, she was prevailed on by Lady Broomsgrove, to allow Lord Abberville's letters to her from Bath, to be directed to Richmond, from whence, they were to be forwarded to Devonshire: she also, for the gratification of the worthy Earl and Countess, consented, that her letters to him should be enclosed to me at Richmond, for the purpose of being sent off from thence to Bath.

In about three weeks after Emma set out upon this excursion, a letter directed for her in a strange hand, came to Richmond, and was as usual immediately forwarded to Broomsgrove-castle: in some days after, I received one from her, a copy of which I luckily am able to furnish, and will, I dare say, afford as much astonishment to Mrs. Montague, as it did

did to me and all the family at Richmond, when it came to hand.

Broomsgrove castle,

Oct. 21, 1780.

MY dearest Georgina, is too well acquainted with the heart of Emma, to entertain the smallest doubt, of its ever giving her pain, to distress her friends, even in the most trifling degree: but as what I am about to relate, cannot long remain a secret to the world, I wish to convey the first intelligence myself, that you and my other friends at Richmond may be satisfied, of my being in the most perfect state of health, notwithstanding the disappointment I have sustained, has, I must confess, been as trying to my feelings, as it was unexpected; to relieve you, however, from a state of cruel suspense, I will at once inform

form you, that the last letter you were so good to forward me from Bath, contained the following intelligence :

“ Bath, Oct. 10, 1780.

“ MADAM,

“ Although I have not the honor of being personally known to you, yet I am not a stranger to your universal amiable character, or of your particular engagement with Lord Abberville.”

“ My concern for the happiness of a deserving young lady, is my only motive for addressing you, and conveying a piece of intelligence, which I much fear, will only be preparatory to something still more disagreeable.”

“ It

“ It probably may become a matter of doubt, whether this letter is not the production of a most malicious calumniator ; but give me leave to remove such a suspicion, by assuring you, it is dictated by a person, who is truly happy at being able to declare, that in the course of a long life, she never deviated from the path of truth and rectitude :—but to begin my painful task.”

“ The Countess of Bexley being left a widow, about four years since, took the resolution of removing to France, for the education of her only child Lady Honoria Beverley, then in her sixteenth year ; in this design, she was attended by a relation, widow of a Clergyman.”

“ After visiting many parts of France, the Countess principally resided near the court, where Lady Honoria was much admired for her beauty ; and soon acquiring the manners of her female intimates, and complimented highly by the other sex, it is no wonder, she was very early initiated in every art of true coquetry.”

“ The Countess of Bexley dying about a year ago, Lady Honoria, then in her nineteenth year, returned to her native country ; and having a considerable estate, from which the allowance of her guardian is very plentiful, she has employed her time, in a tour to all the places of amusement round the kingdom ; and is now at Bath.”

“ A

“ A particular circumstance has given me an opportunity of attending to her disposition, which, with a degree of certainty I observe, encourages her to enjoy a satisfaction and pride, in estranging a favoured Lady, from the affections of her lover, although, she at the same time, in general, despises the object of her malicious pursuit.

“ The superiority of her fortune, her rank, beauty and alluring manners, furnish her with an advantage, which too often has proved successful in such diabolical attempts; and among others, against Lord Abberville, who was no sooner arrived at Bath, than this accomplished coquette, hearing of your uncommon merit and perfections, and that he was shortly to be made happy with your hand, singled

led him out as a proper subject for her malevolence; her vanity being highly inflamed, with the hope of rivalling so much excellence and beauty, especially as in case of her succeeding, she would obtain a lover, perfectly agreeable to her matrimonial views."

"She, on the first acquaintance with his Lordship, practised all her usual arts, and played off her charms to such effect, that I am concerned to say, there remains but little doubt of his having fallen into the snare spread out for him, with infinite contrivance."

"Was I not in a dependant situation, I should not a moment hesitate, at desiring you to make what use you may think proper of this letter; but as I dare not entrust any one to copy it, nor could I disguise my hand sufficiently

ently to conceal the writer from Lady Honoria, should it by any means fall into her possession, I must entreat your being cautious ; as a discovery of my being the intelligencer of her proceedings with Lord Abberville, would be my ruin."

" I shall, however, be satisfied with (nay I recommend) your shewing it to the Dowager Lady Avondale, under certain restrictions, that she may use her discretion, by informing Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, on what a precipice their son this moment stands ; and that if they do not use effectual means, immediately to rescue him from the fascinating power of this Lady, I have reason to apprehend an event, which will for ever destroy his happiness and peace of mind ; being from my situation well assured, that the temper
of

of Lady Honoria Beverley is very different from that, which Miss Bellmour's is represented to be.

I remain Madam,

A sincere admirer of

Your virtues."

When this letter arrived at Broomsgrove-castle, I was on an excursion to Exeter, Plymouth, &c. with Lord and Lady Broomsgrove and their younger sons, therefore did not receive it so soon, as otherwise would have been the case: and being on my return, rather disappointed, at neither meeting Lord Abberville, who had* promised both his Father and Mother, that he would positively be with them on that day; or even receiving a letter from his Lordship, I did not open
that

that from my anonymous friend, until I went to my chamber, and had dismissed Hastings for the night.

No sooner had I perused the dreadful contents, than I was deprived of every faculty, and for some moments continued motionless. At length recovering from this stupor, and doubting whether my eyes had not deceived me, I read it over several times, with the utmost eagerness, hoping to find it an illusion of my brain ; but I, alas ! perceived it still the same.

Had not several days elapsed without receiving a single line from Lord Abberville (at which I was rather uneasy and surprized) I should at once have considered the writer of this letter the vilest of calumniators ; but that tormenting circumstance gave weight to the assertion.

Oh !

Oh! my Georgina, what would I not then have given for your's or my beloved Juliana's company, that in your friendly bosoms I might have poured forth the grief and agony which oppressed my mind: I really thought I should have burst from the fulness of my heart, and know not what might have been the consequence, had not a shower of tears most fortunately come to my assistance.

I wept the greatest part of the night, and when Hastings in the morning came to my bedside, she was much alarmed at finding me nearly in hysterics: after giving me some drops, she ran to inform Lady Broomsgrove of my illness; and in a moment the worthy Countess was in my chamber. At sight of her my tears redoubled, and my agitation was so great, I had
not

not power to say a single word : she was terrified at my situation, and instantly sent for the nearest physician, who on inquiring into the nature of my complaint, at once declared, " Something lay heavy on my mind." He, however, desired, that I might be kept extremely quiet, and ordered me a composing draught, after taking which, I was rather less oppressed.

The distress my indisposition seemed to cause in every part of this amiable family, made me call forth my fortitude, and exert myself in a manner I thought I was unequal to; and about noon I appeared tolerably easy, although discontent sat heavy on my mind. When Lady Broomsgrove entered my dressing-room, and importuned me to inform her, " What that something was, which Dr. Watts had said

said, lay heavy on my mind." She used every means to force the secret from me, that if possible she might give me comfort; and at last, in the tenderest manner, conjured me, "in the name of Abberville, to tell her." No sooner did she mention that faithless man, than I shed some tears, and informed her (being resolved on not being the first to disclose the fatal truth) "I was feverish when I went to bed last night, and in consequence of it, had been tormented with frightful dreams about Lord Abberville: that my spirits were also greatly lowered by the journey of the preceding day; yet should at once have told her the cause of my indisposition, was I not conscious of most deservedly exposing myself to the raillery of the family."

The

The Countess seemed satisfied with this account of myself; and gently chiding me for my superstition, added, "She was happy it was nothing worse," and retired to dress for dinner.

We were all engaged to dine that day at Colonel Temple's, about three miles from Broomsgrove-Castle; but as Dr. Watts had ordered me to be kept quiet, Lady Broomsgrove would not suffer me to go. At this I was highly pleased, being, indeed, very unfit to appear abroad. Her Ladyship, however, pressed exceedingly to remain at home with me, which I would by no means listen to; but accepted of the services of Lionel Southwell, who was so good to offer me his company.

I need

I need not tell you (as you know him) what a lively youth he is, or that he exerted all his vivacity, during the day, to entertain me. He related a number of adventures he had been engaged in, at Eton School; all of which received an additional degree of humour, by his droll manner of relating them; so that in spite of my sad thoughts, he forced me to be merry.

Soon after tea, whilst I was laughing at one of his amusing stories, a servant brought in letters and newspapers from the post: casting my eye over the former, I observed one directed to the Honourable Frederic Southwell, in Lord Abberville's handwriting, with the Carlisle mark on it: this of course threw me into a violent agitation, which, however, was unobserved by Lionel, who having opened a newspaper, was reading every para-

paragraph aloud, which he thought might entertain me. At last, coming to an extract of a letter from Bath, he suddenly stopt short, and running his eye over it, changed colour several times, and walked about the room in great emotion.

Holding out my hand to him for the paper, I with astonishing composure exclaimed, "What, Lionel! I suppose, in the extract from Bath, which you have been so churlish to keep to yourself, you are informed, that Lord Abberville is going to be, or is married to Lady Honoria Beverley? Tell me truly, is it not so?" He started with surprize, and replied, "Good Heaven! Emma, what has put such an absurdity in your head?" With a feigned smile, however, I took it from him, and read the following

ing words, which probably you will have seen in all the public papers, long before this reaches Richmond, without giving it the smallest degree of credit.

“ Extract of a Letter from Bath.

“ THIS city is all astonishment, at the elopement of Lady H—— B—— with Lord A—— to Scotland. Her fortune is said to be immense; yet it causes great speculation, his Lordship having been for some time engaged, with the approbation of the Earl and Countess of B——, to the beautiful and accomplished Miss B——, eldest daughter to the gallant Colonel B——, now on service in America.”

No sooner had I finished this intelligence, and found all my flattering hopes of happiness at once destroyed,
than

than my spirits became insensibly so depressed and low, that I fainted; but was prevented from falling to the floor by Lionel, who caught me in his arms, and violently ringing the bell, assembled some of the servants to my assistance, by whose assiduous attention I was in a little time recovered; when I shed a torrent of tears, and found myself more relieved, than could have been well expected.

Whilst the servants remained in the room, Lionel restrained his feelings; but when they retired, he flung himself into a chair, and taking me by the hand, wept most bitterly.

I at length recovered myself sufficiently to enter of him, not to be so affected, at what could not now be recalled; adding, “ I had every reason

to thank Providence for having thrown Lady Honoria Beverley in his Brother's way, it being too evident, that his love and attachment for me were by no means such, as would have insured real happiness in a married state ; or what I foolishly had flattered myself, I might expect by an union with him ; a discovery of such a secret after marriage would indeed have been intolerable, and rendered me the most miserable of women."

Lionel, a little recovering from his distress, entreated to be informed, by what means, I had obtained a knowledge of his Brother's precipitate and foolish attachment to Lady Honoria Beverley.—Being well acquainted with the goodness of his heart, and his prudent disposition, I did not hesitate to gratify him ; and enjoining him
to

to secrecy, put my information into his hands.

He was visibly agitated during the perusal of the letter; but more particularly so, when he came to the character given in it, of his new acquired sister; and could not help exclaiming, "Oh! Abberville, what have you done? Happiness was within your reach, and you have for ever thrown it from you."

You may easily suppose, my dearest sister, that the spirits of both were much too low, to produce a pleasing evening: it was indeed far otherwise. however, in the course of it, I observed to Lionel, (who had not as yet attended to it) that the direction of the letter to his brother Frederic from Carlisle, was the writing of Lord Ab-

H 2 berville;

berville; when we both concluded, it contained a request to break the marriage to Lord and Lady Broomsgrove; and from this idea, determined to conceal our feelings on the occasion, as much as possible from them, that Frederic might be the first to disclose the dreadful information, which, though my pride and other passions were highly affected by the faithless conduct of Lord Abberville, I most sincerely wished he might execute, in whatever manner was most likely to obtain a pardon for his indiscretion.

As there was to be a ball and supper at Colonel Temple's, which probably would prevent the Earl and Countess from returning home, until it was rather late, Lionel and I retired to our chambers; directing Hastings to wait the arrival of Lady Broomsgrove,

grove, and without mentioning any thing of my fainting, to say I was tolerably well, when I went to bed.

Sleep, my dear Georgina, was however a stranger to my eyes that night, my mind being agitated by a thousand fancies : one moment brought to my recollection, the first meeting with Lord Abberville, at the ball at Tunbridge-wells ; and led me through all those interviews, when by his great attention, respectful behaviour, and engaging manners, he, won me to a partiality in his favour, which I must candidly confess, has for some time past increased to the tenderest regard : —the next instant, my resentment, roused at the baseness of his late proceedings, represented him to my imagination, under every disadvantage, and meriting my highest scorn.

H 3

Oh!

Oh ! Georgina, what a reverse has his ungenerous conduct in a few hours brought about, in the disposition of my heart, over which he so lately enjoyed an undisputed power : the struggle I feel is great, to erase from it an object, I once had foolishly formed an idea, was deserving of its utmost confidence ; but I am determined to conquer every tender sentiment I had imbibed in favour of him, or perish in the attempt.

When Hastings came in the morning to my chamber, she informed me, that Mr. Lionel had called several times on her, to know if I was awake, and how I rested.—The sympathetic sorrow this amiable youth has shewn for me, on this trying occasion, overpowers me quite ; and I should consider myself the most undeserving of human

human beings, did I not regard him with sincere affection : so much so indeed, that I should most heartily rejoice, if fate decreed his being ever united to either of my beloved sisters.

I arose at my usual hour, and went in search of Lionel, whom I found sitting in the breakfast parlour with Frederick, both in a pensive posture and absorbed in thought : on my entering, Lionel with his usual good nature and affability ran to me, and eagerly inquired after my health : Frederick arose, and looking on me, with an eye of the most expressive pity, strove several times to speak, before he could articulate, “ good morrow, Emma ; how do you find yourself this morning ? ”—I answered with a smile, which God knows was foreign to my heart, “ as well as I can be Frede-

ric:" he was going to reply, when Lady Broomsgrove entered, with this address, " good morning to you all, my children—Emma, my love, how are you? I have been in your chamber, and was happy to find the bird was able to fly; but why do you look so sad? I hope you have had no more dreadful dreams?—I will positively after breakfast write to Abberville, to come and keep up your spirits."

At mention of his name, Frederic hung down his head, and Lionel gave a heavy sigh; whilst a blush of resentment overspread my face.

Lady Broomsgrove looking at her Sons and me by turns, continued, " I think you all deserve chiding, for I never in my life met with a more dispirited *trio*; in the name of wonder, what

what is the matter with you?—As for Frederic, I suppose he danced too much last night, for he looks most shockingly fatigued; but why your spirits are fled, Mr. Lionel, I cannot imagine, unless Emma has infected you with her dejection:—“She has, Madam,” answered Lionel, “and I much fear her distemper is contagious.”

Lord Broomsgrove now joined us; and no sooner were we seated to breakfast, than he called for the newspapers:—Lionel gave me a side glance expressive of his apprehensions, which I returned by a heavy sigh; his Lordship ran over several of the paragraphs, making his remarks occasionally; but when he came to that from Bath, he hem'd, bit his lips, changed colour,

lour, and discovered great emotion, without uttering a word.

In a few minutes, the noise of a carriage driving rapidly into the court, called our attention; but before we had time to conjecture whose it could be, the parlour door opened; when, Oh Heaven! Georgina, pity your distressed Sister!—Who should enter, but the faithless Abberville! At sight of me, he started, turned pale, trembled, and seemed overwhelmed with confusion.

The Countess flew to him with rapture, and tenderly embraced him; then turning to me, said, “look there, Abberville, is your charming Emma. I am rejoiced you are come, *we* have had such frightful dreams, as to make *us* quite unhappy.”

He

He advanced to me with an affected smile; yet it was easy to perceive, that his own reflections were more tormenting to his soul, than any punishment or censure this world could inflict. I therefore at that moment was impelled by an irresistible impulse, to change every atom of my resentment against him, into the sincerest pity.

With a composure, which now astonishes me, as it then did Frederic and Lionel, I bid him welcome; but with an air so unusually cool, and uninterested, it did not escape the eye of Lady Broomsgrove, who seemed displeased.

The worthy Earl was uncommonly delighted and happy at the appearance of his son, and received him with every

mark of affection ; the other returning it in a manner, plainly expressive of a consciousness of having acted wrong : the countenance of Frederic wore a chiding aspect, as he shook his Brother by the hand :—and it was easy to observe, how powerful was the conflict, in the breast of Lionel, between fraternal love, and high dissatisfaction at his conduct ; his good nature, however, prevailed, and he accosted him with the appearance of affection.

Again we sat down to breakfast, when Lady Broomsgrove desired me to fill a dish of chocolate for Abberville : I complied, and handed it to him with steadiness and composure ; for my heart, Georgina, was a stranger to any evil act, and its rectitude supported me with firmness, throughout the whole of this trying interview ;

But

But it was far otherwise with him, when he received the cup, his hand trembling so much, he had not power to hold it, and it fell instantly on the floor: he in great confusion apologized for this awkwardness, by saying, "that having drove his Phaeton almost fifty miles within a few hours, his nerves were highly affected by it."

When breakfast was over, and the servants retired, Lord Broomsgrove took up the newspaper, and presented it to his Son, saying, "though happy I have ever been at seeing you Abberville, after any absence, yet your appearance this day, has given me unusual satisfaction: you will by that paper perceive, you have just arrived in time, to clear your honor of a vile as-
perion

person thrown upon it by the libellers of Bath."

"What do they accuse my dearest Abberville of?" exclaimed the Countess, with great emotion:—"of an act," replied his Lordship, "which if he was capable of committing, I should this instant disown him for my Son, and banish him for ever from my heart and sight."

The resolute manner, in which he delivered those last sentiments, operated like a sentence of death pronounced by a stern Judge, upon a convicted criminal, which not only strikes a horror on the wretched culprit, but on the listening croud.

An involuntary trepidation seized the Countess, she could not then assign

sign a cause for; pity for the instant
suspended to my resentment; whilst
Frederic and Lionel turned red and
pale alternately.

———“ *they strove to speak ;
Nor words *they* found.*”

GRAINGER.

But the situation of Lord Abber-
ville beggared all description.

“ Heavy with instant fate, *his bosom heav'd*
Unwonted sighs.”

THOMPSON.

For some minutes I surveyed the dif-
ferent figures; and perceiving that no
one attempted, or seemed equal to the
task of unfolding to the Earl, what
could not long be kept a secret from
him, I stepped forward, with a com-
posure even to myself surprising, and
thus

thus addressed him : " And why, my good Lord, would you for ever banish Lord Abberville from your heart and sight, even should this intelligence from Bath be true? You surely will allow, that our affections are in many cases quite involuntary, human reason never having accounted for the capricious effects of love. It will not, I believe, be disputed by your Lordship, or any person of this company, that nature has implanted in every human heart a strong desire for happiness; and that we all instinctively pursue the road which our imagination inclines us to consider, as directly tending to that point."

" What do you mean, my sweet girl," replied Lord Broomsgrove. " I mean, my good Lord," returned I, " even if what you have just now read
be

be true, you will not carry your resentment to so great a length, as you have threatened ; but adopt that mercy and forgiveness which the natural goodness of your heart will, I am persuaded, dictate ; considering my Lord, that, “ To err is human ; to forgive, divine.”

“ Exalted girl !” replied Lord Broomsgrove, and pressed me to his bosom ; then turning to the unhappy Abberville, with a look of the most expressive rage, he thus delivered himself, in a tone of voice which struck all present with awe and fear ; “ as it is now too clear, Lord Abberville, from your late proceedings, that you have forgot you had a Father, I, from this moment, shall forget you are my Son, and desire you may instantly quit my presence ; into which, I swear

I swear most solemnly, you never shall again return with my permission."

Lord Abberville trembled and obeyed; whilst the Countess turning her eyes upon us all by turns, as if labouring with suspense, caught Lord Broomsgrove by the hand, and with tears entreated to be informed, "What offence Abberville had committed, that not even the intercession of his Emma can obtain a pardon?"—"No, my Augusta," replied his Lordship, "she is no longer to be called his Emma."—"Oh! my prophetic mind!" exclaimed the Countess, "yet it surely cannot be."—Emma, Frederic, Lionel, will none of you inform me what is Abberville's offence? Do, take pity on a Mother's anguish, and relieve me from a state of suspense tormenting to my mind." Lionel approached

proached her Ladyship, and in a voice scarcely intelligible from the frequent sighs which the oppression of his heart gave vent to, said, "Madam, Abberville is married."

On receiving this intelligence, which operated like a dagger plunged into her heart, she flung herself upon a sofa, and wept most bitterly; whilst the gentle Lionel sat by her, endeavouring to give comfort to her affliction.

The Earl, whose passion was still most evident by his countenance, now cast an angry look towards Frederic, and sternly asked him, "Are you, Mr. Southwell, an accomplice with Lord Abberville in this infamous transaction?" — "No, indeed, my Lord," answered Frederic, "I, from the bottom of my soul disapprove of his conduct;

conduct; yet those seeds of fraternal love which you have taken uncommon pains to implant in my bosom, urge me to join the most generous of her sex, in soliciting your forgiveness for the unfortunate, unhappy Abberville.— Here, my Lord, is a letter, I last night received from him, conveying the intelligence of his marriage, which, if you will be pleased to peruse, you will in it find his own reasons and excuses more strong and satisfactory, than any I can attempt to offer.”

Lord Broomsgrove took the letter, and instantly threw it into the fire, saying, “ See there, Sir, in what high estimation I hold the writer and his excuses ; and thus terminates all farther intercourse between Lord Abberville and me.”

Again

Again Frederic and I attempted to entreat his Lordship to relent; but he at once cut short every hope, by saying, "Although I must always approve the motives which induce you, Frederic, to apologize for a conduct I know your soul condemns, yet I desire, on pain of my displeasure, that you desist from any farther importunities on this subject. As to you, my amiable Miss Bellmour, your generous pleadings for a false, ungrateful wretch, who, after having gained your favourable opinion, basely relinquished that honour, for the alluring smiles of one so little known to him, only serves to render his offence more glaring in my eyes, and to rouse my resentment to the highest pitch against him."

"But

“ But pray, Frederic,” continued his Lordship, “ who is this Lady H. B. who has so clandestinely and dishonourably stole into our family, and overturned all my schemes for the establishment of your Brother ?” “ It is Lady Honoria Beverley, only daughter to the late Earl of Bexley ;” replied Frederic. “ Good Heaven ! what do I hear ?” exclaimed the Countess.

“ It is well,” rejoined Lord Broomsgrove, “ I am no stranger to that Lady’s character ; and since he has entered into a connection, at all events dishonourable to himself from certain circumstances, and injurious to his family’s repose, I most sincerely rejoice that he has chosen a woman, who, I am satisfied, will be a scourge for his ingratitude and perfidy to the most deserving of her sex ; but go to him,
Frederic,

Frederic, before he leaves my house, and tell him, it is my last and positive commands, he never presumes to trouble me with apologies for a conduct, I must always execrate. That I never shall acknowledge a Son, who is not inspired with true sentiments of honour; assuring him, he forfeited his, by breaking an engagement with a most amiable young lady, and insulting a family nearly as noble as his own : tell him that

“ Honour’s a sacred tie, the law of Kings,
The noble mind’s distinguishing perfection,
That aids and strengthens virtue when it meets her,
And imitates her actions where she is not :
It ought not to be sported with.”

ADDISON.]

Frederic bowed, sighd, and left the room ;—Lionel followed ;—and as I observed the Countess quite lost in thought, with her head leaning on her arm, I addressd her on some in-
different

different matters; when rousing from her reverie, she desired me to follow to her dressing-room: no sooner were we arrived there, than I used every argument to prevail on her, to exert her influence (which I knew was great) with Lord Broomsgrove, to forgive her Son: to which she with a sigh replied, "He is no longer a Son of mine; rash young man:" and throwing her arms about my neck with the greatest affection, wept most bitterly; adding, "must I then, Emma, give up the fond, the pleasing hope, I long have entertained, of seeing Abberville united to you, and calling you my daughter. Oh! foolish Abberville! How could you resign such excellence? What a heavenly disposition do you possess, my sweetest Emma, to plead so warmly for the man, who so grossly has insulted you; and against whom
you

you would be justifiable, in shewing the most pointed and bitter resentment."

I was now no longer able to restrain my tears (which hitherto I had done) but wept most bitterly with the feeling worthy Countess, who was proceeding on this affecting subject, when the entrance of Lionel interrupted it. He came from Lord Abberville, with a request to be admitted into her presence, before he departed from the house.

"No, Sir," replied she, in an angry tone of voice, "tell him that the name of Lord Abberville is forbid from henceforward, to be even mentioned in my presence."

Lionel retired much distressed at this determination; and a message coming from Lord Broomsgrove to request the Countess's company in his dressing-room, I went in search of Frederic or Lionel, my spirits being in such a languid state, notwithstanding all my boasted efforts to bear this matter with indifference, that I was afraid to trust myself alone.

Being directed by the servants to the pleasure grounds, I, after a search of some time, came to the temple of Minerva, from whence there issued a most heart-rending sigh; and concluding it came from one of the young gentlemen I was in pursuit of, entered without hesitation:—but oh! Georgina! instead of either, I found the faithless Abberville. I started back, and was returning, scarcely
able

able to support my tottering limbs ; when he arose, and in a voice almost inarticulate by sighs, said, “ Well may you, Madam, fly from the false, ungrateful Abberville ; but guilty as I am, let me presume to ask a favour from her, whose mind is more exalted than ever was another human being : stop, I conjure you, Miss Bellmour, whilst I pour forth the effusions of my gratitude, for your generous exertions with Lord Broomsgrove in my behalf (of which, exclusive of what I was a witness to, my Brothers have informed me) at a time, when the highest contempt and resentment were due for my offence. Yes, Madam, I must for ever admire your noble conduct, which has this day plunged a dagger in my heart, and clearly discovered to me, that I am a villain. In truth, Miss Bellmour, the worst of villains, who,

with unwearied address and art, obtained your favourable opinion, and then so basely forfeited all pretensions to it. I dare not plead for pardon.—No, Madam, my crime is of too deep a die for me to expect it.”

His looks were at that moment so expressive of a sincere contrition, and he seemed so borne down with the weight of his offence, and his Father’s anger, I could not resist telling him, “He need not sue for a pardon, he was already in possession of.”

“Good Heavens! what do I hear?” exclaimed his Lordship, “Can it be possible, that the person I have principally injured, can be the first to grant forgiveness. May Providence shower down a blessing on your head, and insure you happiness with some deserving
ing

ing man, who will have sense to estimate your worth."

The plaintive and pathetic manner in which he uttered these good wishes affected me exceedingly, and in spite of all my efforts to prevent it, forced some tears, which I hope and believe he did not perceive; but instantly recovering from this weakness, I told his Lordship, "I must retire;" assuring him, "I sincerely wished him every felicity with the Lady he had chosen; and hoped that the joint endeavours of his Brothers, and my own, would in a little time mitigate the anger of Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, which he might easily have avoided, had he known the heart of Emma Bellmour:—yes, my Lord," continued I, "had you but candidly declared, you could no longer allow

me to continue mistress of your affections, having seen another, with whom you proposed a higher degree of happiness, I would readily have consented, that the rejection of our intended union, should have borne the appearance of arising from me; by which means, Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, who were so anxious for your domestic comfort, would soon have consented to your marriage with the Lady you now possess; and you would thereby, not only have prevented their displeasure, but likewise have avoided giving an insult to my family, and throwing an everlasting stigma on your own character for having done so; thus you see, my Lord, the want of confidence in my generosity, has I fear involved you in some disagreeable embarrassments, from which it will require

quire all your address to extricate you."

During these words, Lord Abberville hung down his head, appearing to be highly agitated; and when I had finished, he replied, "who would act wrong, if he was aware of the torments of a guilty conscience: Oh! Miss Bellmour, your last words have wrung my soul; but I deserve it all; my weakness has undone me; yes, much injured, Emma! sweet excellence! I am completely miserable; for still I love you." Looking on me at that instant with his usual tenderness, he took me by the hand, which I hastily withdrew; and exerting every feeling, which a sudden recollection of my injuries inspired, I retired, saying, "remember, Sir, you

are now the husband of Lady Abberville."

I hurried to my own apartment, there to recover my spirits, which were exceedingly agitated by this unexpected interview :—I had not, however been long there, before Lionel tapped at the door, and entreated of me to come down to the drawing-room, where his brother Frederic wished to see me.

I complied with his request, when, on entering, Frederic said, "I sent Lionel to desire your company here, as I do not wish at this juncture to leave you by yourself." We all sat down, when these two amiable young men tried every little art to divert my melancholy thoughts, which, I fear, at that instant, were too visible in my counte-

countenance. Their lively sallies did not, however, long continue, the subject which lay nearest to their hearts, soon becoming the topic of our conversation. Lionel could not avoid telling me, "That poor Abberville was gone to Exeter, where he had left his bride."

A general silence for some moments ensued after this intelligence, when Frederic expressed a concern, "That his Father had burnt the letter he received yesterday from Abberville, as it might have been some gratification to me to have seen under his own hand, a full account of the rise and progress of his fatal passion for Lady Honoria Beverley : in which, among other circumstances, he, in a most affecting manner, described the torment of his mind, agitated between a

love for you, strongly supported by reason, honour, and every other delicate consideration, and that for her Ladyship, recommended only by a violent infatuated passion, which she so much improved, by the aid of tears, sighs, and a declaration of the wretched state she must for ever be thrown into, if he should become the husband of another, that he was melted into commiseration for her; and under this influence proposed a trip to Scotland, which she instantly consented to: adding, "That before he had time to recover from his infatuation, or seriously reflect upon the step he was about to take, they were some stages on their journey."

"This circumstance," continued Frederic, "would, I confess, demand my utmost pity, and induce me to make
an

an allowance for so precipitate a measure, had he not in another part of the letter candidly acknowledged, that even from their first acquaintance, he plainly perceived the artifice of her intentions, and her motives for so suddenly attaching herself to him."

"Good heaven! what a prospect of misery has my unfortunate Brother to encounter, united to a woman, whose behaviour, through this whole affair, has so clearly proved her being a stranger to every delicate and generous sentiment; and who, it is evident, took advantage of his weakness, from motives too base to think on, with any degree of patience."

He was proceeding to animadvert still farther on his Brother's letter and conduct, when Lord Broomsgrove's entrance:

entrance put a stop to it: he instantly came up to me, and in the most easy and engaging manner apologized, for the part which Lord Abberville's professions of a sincere attachment for me, had induced him to engage in: adding, "That he presumed to hope, I would acquit him, of being in the smallest degree a party in the ungenerous and unmerited insult offered to me. Indeed, my late exalted treatment of an object by no means deserving of it, gave him every reason to be satisfied, that I would regard this whole transaction in a proper point of view; but whether he might be able so easily to exculpate himself with the Dowager Lady Avondale and Colonel Bellmour, disturbed him very much. He had, however wrote to both, and wished he might so far succeed in his endeavours, as not to forfeit their favourable opinion."

My

My reply in a few words conveying to his Lordship, a perfect satisfaction in his conduct, from my first introduction to his family, he seemed highly pleased with my sentiments on the occasion, and retired.

Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, with their two amiable sons Frederic and Lionel, often wish (in which I most sincerely join them) that the folly of Lord Abberville may not break off the friendship subsisting between their family and our's. Her Ladyship also hopes, that the Dowager may not send for me, until we all return to London for the winter.

I truly should not wish to leave her in such low spirits as she is at present; in which I consider myself most clearly justified, when I confess the tenderness and friendship she has uniformly shewn

shewn to me, ever since my first acquaintance in the family: besides, Georgina, I will candidly acknowledge to you, how much I dread the thoughts of returning to town, amidst the sneers and ridicule of an ill-natured world. Methinks, I already observe some of my acquaintance pointing at me, and saying, "There goes the poor, forsaken Emma Bellmour, the neglected Lady would be Abberville;" with many other cutting sarcasms. Oh pride, how deep and painful are thy stings!

It is true, Georgina, that time may wear off the scorn of an illiberal crowd, and reconcile me to their unmerited remarks; but there is another agonizing thought, which shakes my soul whenever it obtrudes, and forces from me an involuntary sigh. Think, my
sister,

sister, of the effect which Lord Abberville's conduct will rouse in the feeling hearts of our honoured Father and young Henry : will their nice and spirited ideas of honour tamely submit to such an insult offered to me and to their family. Indeed it cannot be; and I already see them flying to revenge the injury their unoffending Emma has received.

Yet what will their resentment avail, even should they sheath their swords in the heart of the most worthless of his sex ? Will that undo the insulting deed, or heal the wound at present given to my repose ? Surely not. Or should the weapon of the faithless Abberville prove successful; and deprive us of our only Parent or a Brother ? Oh ! Georgina, distraction hangs on the idea ; whilst anticipation presents either the once loved Abberville, or
one

one of my nearest relations, struggling in the agonies of death : or both, perhaps.—It is too much to bear !—the thought that such a scene may soon be acted, fills me with horror, and chills my very soul.

In continuation.

I was obliged to lay down my pen ; reflection overcame me ; my head grew giddy ; and I fainted. Hastings was in the next room ; she heard my fall ; came to my assistance ; and soon recovered me, without alarming the family. I found my head still too confused to proceed in finishing my letter, therefore I strolled into the Park, where Frederic soon followed.

I asked him, “ Why Lord Abberville came to Broomsgrove Castle, before his Father had been acquainted
with

with his marriage?" He replied, "That in the letter received from Abberville (burnt by his Father) he desired him to inform Lord Broomsgrove, which he intended to have done immediately after breakfast yesterday morning, had not his Brother's arrival prevented it : that on asking Abberville, why he came to Broomsgrove Castle so immediately after his letter, he assured him, had he known Miss Bellmour was there, he would by no means have attempted it, and that it was by Lady Abberville's persuasions, he came at all; she insisting it would be more probable to obtain his Father's forgiveness, before Miss Bellmour and her family heard of their marriage, than otherwise might be the case, as there could be but little doubt of their exerting every power to exasperate Lord Broomsgrove against him, the instant they

31.3.77

they were informed of the event which had taken place."

In this idea, my dearest sister, her Ladyship, I do suppose, judged of my feelings, from what in a similar situation would have occurred to her.

From several circumstances I have heard from Frederic, there is every reason to apprehend Lord Abberville will not be happy in his marriage: if he should not, he may deserve it; yet I do not believe such a circumstance would afford me the smallest pleasure.

Lord Broomsgrove does not think his letter of apology to the Dowager Lady Avondale sufficient, and therefore sets out for Richmond the day after to morrow.

What

What an amiable family this is, except one, who, I alas! once thought superior to them all; their sole study is the restoration of my spirits.

The Countess talks of a tour to Italy in the spring; and of trying to obtain permission for me to accompany her, which I am inclined at present to think I should not much dislike, whilst my late disappointment remains so strong upon the remembrance of my acquaintance, as will probably be the case some months.

And now my dearest Georgina having brought my sad story to a conclusion, I will no longer afflict you with the sorrows of

Your affectionate Sister,

EMMA BELLMOUR."

L E T T E R X V H .

I WAS sitting at work with the Dowager, Lady Hunter, Juliana, and Louisa, when poor Emma's packet arrived. The size of it surprized us all, and induced Louisa to say, "Surely Emma is married unknown to us, and this is an account of the wedding:" I with eagerness broke the seal, and began to read; but before I had proceeded very far, my tears deprived me of my sight, and I was obliged to request of Miss Southern to finish it aloud: she with great difficulty complied, from the frequent interruption of her sobs; and having finished, the whole company melted into tears, as well as me, except the Dowager Lady Avondale,

Avondale, whose passion took a different turn: for the first time in my life, I now perceived her temper ruffled, her countenance discovering a just resentment at my sister's treatment, whilst, with great vehemence she exclaimed, " My sweetest Emma, the wretch was unworthy of so much goodness." She uttered several more invectives against the faithless Abberville, in which we all, with undissembled cordiality joined her: bestowing, at the same time, the highest encomiums on the surprising magnanimity of the injured Emma. " Yes," resumed the Dowager, " The charming girl has acquitted herself throughout this vile affair, just as my matchless friends her Grandmother and Mother would have done in such a situation."

" I

“ I must acknowledge,” said Miss Southern, “ the superiority of Emma Bellmour over me in every transaction of our lives ; for had I been in her place, I could not have displayed such a greatness of soul, as she has done. No, I would with all my powers have aggravated his offence to Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, and have spurned the wretch with indignation from my presence :” poor Louisa was too young to enter feelingly into the nature of the disappointment, any further than it deprived her of the attention of Lord Abberville, who had won her little heart, by the remarkable notice he had always taken of her, and by a profusion of the most elegant toys, which could be purchased.

When we were somewhat composed, the Dowager read for us Lord
and

and Lady Broomsgrove's letters, which arrived with Emma's packet. They were expressive of the deepest sorrow for the conduct of Lord Abberville, whom they reprobated with the utmost severity; and concluded (after making their apologies for the disappointment, in a style of elegance and delicacy scarcely to be equalled) with a hope, that the unoffending parts of their family might still enjoy her Ladyship's esteem, as well as that of those particularly related to Miss Bellmour, whose exalted behaviour on such an unexpected event, they mentioned highly to her honour.

As this was a point not requiring a moment's consideration to determine on, we were all readily induced, from our prejudices in favour of the worthy Earl and Countess, not to extend the
least

least resentment on Lord Abberville's account to them, or to their younger sons, whose attention and delicate feelings for poor Emma, from the first discovery of their Brother's ungenerous conduct to her, merited our warmest and sincerest thanks.

On the second reading of my Sister's letter, we were all enabled to consider the several parts in it with more coolness and reflection, than our surprize and passion would at first admit of; and in particular that relative to her fears, for the consequences of my Father's and Brother's resentment against Lord Abberville, which before had been but little attended to: we with horror shuddered at the idea, and trembled at the fatal effects which might arise from it, in every point of view. Miss Southern could not suppress

press her sensations on it; exclaiming, "Yes, Henry Bellmour will undoubtedly call the worthless Abberville to a severe account." When sinking on a sofa, she was with difficulty prevented from fainting.

The Dowager, who was the only person in the company, sufficiently collected to speak with coolness on the subject, used every means to quiet our apprehensions; promising to write immediately to my Father and Henry, in such terms as she hoped would pacify their anger, for the insult given by Lord Abberville to Emma Bellmour and her family, and prevent their taking such violent measures as we dreaded.

In the evening of the following day Lord Broomsgrove paid his com-

pliments to the Dowager Lady Avondale. On entering the drawing-room, he appeared embarrassed to a degree, which was obvious to every one, and at once addressed her to the following effect, "that he never before was ashamed to shew his face in any circle, but could not avoid blushing on the present occasion, although conscious of his own innocence, in every part of the affront offered by the unworthy Lord Abberville to Miss Bellmour. An affront which he never could forgive, whilst he wished to preserve the character of a man of honour, or support the dignity of his name and title. It is indeed, Madam," continued he, "a distressing reflection, to be compelled to appear before you and these ladies, in so awkward a situation, for an offence committed by a person I once with pleasure acknowledged

ledged

ledged for a Son; but from hence-forward never shall."

The Dowager in return assured his Lordship, "that neither she or any of the Bellmour family could with justice be offended with, or condemn him or Lady Broomsgrove, for what was merely the act of Lord Abberville:"—adding, "it would be repugnant to every generous and rational sentiment, that parents should be censurable for the indiscretions of their children; provided they do not arise from a want of proper education, or the neglect of instilling into their minds an early sense of honor."

Lord Broomsgrove continued at Richmond until the following day, when he set off for Devonshire; having first obtained the Dowager's

permission, for Emma to remain at Broomsgrove-castle, until his family returned to London; and leaving us all perfectly enamoured with the elegance and politeness of his address and manners, which his affectionate and delicate expressions, at being so unexpectedly robbed of my Sister, almost at the very instant she was on the point of being united to his family, did not a little contribute to.

In about a month after this visit from Lord Broomsgrove, the Dowager with her friends, removed to London for the winter, and in a few days after, he and his family arrived from Broomsgrove-castle, when my beloved Emma lost not a moment in joining us at Portman-square:—it was astonishing the little alteration to be remarked in her countenance, except

cept when sometimes an involuntary melancholy was discernable, through the thin veil of affected spirits, she attempted to throw over it.

It would not be doing a proper justice to this truly amiable Sister, did I not assure you Mrs. Montague, that she exerted all her powers to regain her former natural vivacity, notwithstanding which, I have often surprised her in tears; and when I have chided her for indulging such a weakness, on account of a most undeserving object, she has replied, “do Georgina, forgive and pity me; in a short time I hope to be as indifferent about that object, as you or my friends can wish.”

No sooner did Emma, after her return to London, appear in public, than she was, contrary to her expecta-

tions, received by her acquaintance, with a degree of delicate compassion and attention, which, as much as any other circumstance, contributed to restore her mind to its usual state of tranquility: her generous and almost unexampled behaviour to Lord Abberville, on his injurious treatment (which Lord and Lady Broomsgrove took indefatigable pains to publish in all companies) obtained for her a general admiration and respect.

In about three weeks after the Dowager Lady Avondale had wrote to my Brother, (who was then at Rome) informing him of Emma's disappointment with Lord Abberville; and laying the strictest injunction on him, only to treat it with the contempt it so justly merited, she received a letter from Mr. Sterling, who

who attended him and Edward Southern on their travels, to the following effect.

“MADAM,

Two days ago Mr. Bellmour having received a letter from your Ladyship, which I perceived to affect him in a very high degree, it occurred to me that some disagreeable account had been conveyed from America; and presuming on that confidence he on every occasion had reposed in me, I took the liberty of entreating, to be made a partaker of the distress, which seemed to bear so heavy on his mind; after some repeated sollicitation, he gave me the honor of perusing your Ladyship's letter, when you may be assured, I did not omit an exertion of every argument, which I thought

could co-operate with your Ladyship's wishes, or convince him of the impropriety of pursuing any act of resentment against Lord Abberville; at least, until he had been acquainted with Colonel Bellmour's sentiments on the delicate occasion.

Notwithstanding all my endeavours, his feelings for the insult offered to his Sister, were so powerful, that nothing seemed possible to satisfy his honor, but the mistaken appeal to the sword, by which the fashionable part of mankind now terminate all injuries: however, by an assiduous repetition of my arguments during the remainder of the day, on which your Ladyship's letter came to hand, and the subsequent one, I flattered myself with having (by the assistance of Mr. Southern) gained him so far over to
my

my opinion, that he would suspend every act of resentment, until he should receive an answer to a letter, he purposed writing to his Father.

My apprehensions being thus lulled, by his seeming acquiescence with my sentiments, your Ladyship may easily suppose, how great must have been my surprise, when this morning on coming down to breakfast, I was informed by the servants, that in about an hour after I had retired to my chamber the preceding night, the two young gentlemen and their valets went out of the house, desiring them to inform me in the morning, that they should not return for two days.

Alarmed by this information, and apprehensive of the real motives for their elopement (as I had always

without reserve, been a partaker of their amusements, and a promoter of every excursion I considered of consequence, either to their entertainment or improvement) I hastened to the place, where our travelling carriage usually stood; and had the mortification to be informed, that the two gentlemen and their servants, with only a small portmanteau for their baggage, had set out in it above ten hours previous to my inquiries, upon an excursion for two days, towards Geneva, as they said. Although I was then convinced their excursion pointed towards England, yet, as they had got so many hours the start of me, I considered it a fruitless attempt, to think of following them; and therefore contented myself in returning home, to give your Ladyship the earliest intelligence of their elopement,

elopement, and my apprehensions of the cause; in hopes that this letter may come to your hands, in time to have some mode adopted, for preventing Mr. Bellmour, from proceeding with such violence against Lord Abberville, as no doubt was his intention on quitting Rome.

I shall be truly wretched, until freed from the apprehensions I entertain at the sudden return of these amiable young men to England; and hope your Ladyship will be so good to relieve my anxiety about them, as soon as possible, with directions in what manner I am to proceed, in my present deserted situation.

Permit me to have the honor of presenting my most respectful compli-

ments to Lady Hunter and the young ladies, and to assure you that,

I am Madam,

Your Ladyship's

most faithful and

obedient humble servant,

OLIVER STERLING."

Rome, Jan.

2, 1781.

When the Dowager received this letter, it was evident that the contents of it (which she did not at that time divulge to any of the family) disturbed her very much, although she endeavoured to suppress her feelings most surprisngly, that we should not be alarmed.

alarmed about an event, whose consequences might not, perhaps, turn out so dreadful, as our fears would magnify them.

Her situation at this critical moment was truly pitiable, between a wish to avoid giving distress to her family, and a desire to moderate the impetuous proceedings of two inexperienced young men, in whose welfare she was so highly interested.

A thousand fancies by turns obtruded on her distracted mind, to prevent, if possible, the impending danger; yet none seemed fraught with the smallest probability of answering her purpose.

In this dilemma, she at length fixed on one, agreeable to her hopes, by sending a card to Colonel Manners, who

who often visited at Portman-square, to entreat the honor of seeing him immediately, or else by eight o'clock next morning, on a very particular piece of business, in which she must solicit his assistance.

As the Colonel was not at home when her card arrived, and did not return until it was too late to obey her commands that night, he deferred complying with her request until the next morning, when at the hour appointed he attended, and was introduced to the drawing-room, where with great anxiety she waited to receive him, having previously given directions, that in case any of us should quit our apartments before the usual time, we were to be told, "she expected a gentleman upon matters relative to family affairs, and must decline

cline the satisfaction of our company, until he was come and gone."

After apologizing for the liberty taken in sending for him, she in a few words explained her motives for it, hoping, " he would be so good to pardon the anxious fears of an old woman, on so alarming an occasion ;"—and entreating of him, " to take such speedy measures, as his prudence and knowledge of the world might suggest, to prevent, if possible, an event from taking place, which distracted her even to think on ; or if such a matter could not be accomplished, (from the arbitrary custom of mankind, contrary to every sentiment of religion and humanity) that he would attempt to restrain in proper bounds, the violent resentment, she had every reason to suppose, her young kinsman, Henry Bellmour,

mour, entertained against Lord Abberville, who, she could not help acknowledging, in a high degree deserved it:—but surely Colonel Manners,” concluded the Countess, “that unworthy man has done sufficient injury to our family, without having an opportunity forced on him to commit, perhaps, a greater.”

The Colonel assured her, “he would take the most effectual and expeditious means in his power, to have this unpleasant business terminated as much to her wish, as circumstances would admit;—and hoped to be soon able to appear before her Ladyship, with a higher degree of satisfaction, than at present he confessed was the case.”

It

It was impossible the Dowager could have fixed on any person more qualified for such an undertaking, than Colonel Manners, as he was (besides being perfectly acquainted with all the modes and *étiquettes* of the fashionable world) a gentleman of the most humane and moderate disposition, tempered with a clear and refined understanding; to which might be added, the possession of a true and rational idea of the nicest honor.

On quitting the Dowager, he hastened to Lord Abberville's house, where he was informed, "that his Lordship, with a large party of gentlemen and ladies, were gone the day before to Windsor, on a scheme of pleasure."

Thither he followed, and arriving at the same inn where Lord Abber-
ville

ville and his friends were lodged, was told, “ that his Lordship, accompanied by Sir Charles Loftus, had rode into the forest about an hour before ;”—at this instant observing a servant in the inn, whom he recollected to have often seen at the Dowager Lady Avondale’s, he addressed him, and received the certain intelligence of the two young gentlemen he was in search of, having arrived early that morning at Windsor, and being also gone to take a ride in the forest.

The Colonel with all the expedition in his power set forward to pursue them ; and entering the forest, made repeated inquiries after the route most probable for them to have taken ; for some time he moved on in a state of uncertainty, until at length casting his eye to an opening, at some distance

tance to his right, he perceived four men on foot, and at the same instant heard the discharge of a pistol: he now redoubled his speed, as fast as his horse could move, towards the combatants, whom he had little doubt, of being those he sought for, but before he could possibly come up to them, a second discharge took place.

As Lord Abberville and his second, Sir Charles Loftus, were intimately acquainted with the Colonel, they received him with great politeness and vivacity, expressing the highest degree of satisfaction, at having it in their power to inform him, that the unpleasant business they met upon, was most happily at an end, in a manner reflecting (as Sir Charles said) the greatest honor, both on Lord Abberville and Mr. Bellmour; and luckily without

without any disagreeable consequence attending it.

The particulars of this affair were related by Sir Charles Loftus, to Colonel Manners, who conveyed them to the Dowager in raptures of applause, at the cool and manly conduct of her two young friends; and were to the following effect.

In the morning with every precaution, which prudence could dictate to prevent suspicion, Mr. Southern waited on Lord Abberville, and informed him, “ that his late behaviour to Miss Bellmour, was of such a nature, it was impossible for her Brother, not to consider it an insult offered both to her and every part of her family; he was, therefore, compelled to demand that satisfaction from his Lordship, he had

no

no doubt he should receive, by giving him the honor of a meeting in the forest, at two o'clock, accompanied by a friend, with the proper arms used on such occasions."

To which Lord Abberville replied, "it was a demand he had every reason to expect would some time or other be made on him, although, not quite so soon he must confess, as he understood Colonel Bellmour and his son were not in England; the demand was certainly a just one, and could not admit of the smallest delay in being answered, he therefore, would accept the honor of meeting Mr. Bellmour, agreeable to his invitation."

On the arrival of both parties at the spot appointed, Lord Abberville with great politeness and composure, thus addressed

addressed my Brother: "I am very much concerned Mr. Bellmour, that our first acquaintance should commence, with such unpleasant circumstances attending it, and the more so, as it is not in my power to offer any apology, consistent with your honor to accept of; your resentment against me, is, I must confess, grounded on the strictest justice, and was I in your situation, I hope I should have acted just as you have done."

To which my Brother answered, "I am happy, my Lord, that your ideas relative to any apology, exactly coincide with mine; and I feel a secret pleasure in being complimented, by a person of your Lordship's approved judgment *in the forms of propriety*, with having acted as I ought."

Sir

Sir Charles Loftus and Mr. Southern having measured the distance for the combatants, proposed the first fire should be determined, by casting lots, to which Lord Abberville in the strongest terms objected, declaring, "as he had given an undisputed cause for this meeting, Mr. Bellmour had an undoubted right to fire first, and positively should." My Brother on the other hand insisted, "that this advantage must be determined by lot, as he believed was the general custom in such cases."

An altercation of some minutes ensued on this punctilio, with the same ease and politeness on both sides, as if they had been complimenting each other, on the most indifferent occurrences in life; nor would it have been easily settled, had not the seconds

conds declared in favour of Lord Abberville's opinion : when my Brother after some little pause fired, the ball grazing along the crown of his Lordship's hat, and passing through the hindermost flap of it.

He then with the greatest composure stood prepared to receive a return, when Lord Abberville thus addressed him, " Mr. Bellmour, I again confess the justice of your resentment, and think the loss of life, had it happened by your shot, would have been but a very trifling atonement, for the insult I have given to you and your family, by an offence committed against the most meritorious and deserving of her sex : the bare remembrance of which (was I never to endure another punishment) is full sufficient torment ; yet, though by that transaction, I have
thrown

thrown an everlasting stain upon my honor, the world shall not accuse me of having lifted my arm on this occasion, against the Brother of a woman I must ever reverence and regard; even the chance of giving her distress by such an attempt, would for ever plant thorns in my walk through life, and add considerably to disturb my peace of mind. I respect your character, Mr. Bellmour, by report, even if the business of this hour had not afforded me cause for admiration; and with sincerely I may ever be able to merit a more favourable opinion from you, than can possibly be now the case." He instantly fired in the air, and continued, "Now, Sir, I am ready to encounter any farther marks of resentment, which you may think proper to bestow on me."

To which my Brother replied, "No, my Lord, your behaviour in every point this day, has so much distinguished you a man of honor, I must for ever bury my resentment against you in oblivion; and exceedingly regret, that certain circumstances put it out of my power, to cultivate an intimacy with a person, whose character I must in *general* most particularly admire."

After several compliments and congratulations having passed, from Sir Charles Loftus and Mr. Southern, on the satisfactory and fortunate issue of the meeting; and Colonel Manners having apologized for, and explained the cause of his intrusion, the whole party mounted their horses, and returned amicably to Windsor, where they spent some little time together, but not at the inn occupied by Lady Abberville

Abberville and her company, to avoid a suspicion of the motives, for their ride into the Forest, which the servants who attended, were also particularly enjoined not to mention, until they publicly heard it spoke of.

LET 2

L E T T E R . XVIII.

COLONEL Manners having politely introduced himself to Edward and Henry, and fully explained to them his engagement with the Dowager Lady Avondale, begged he might have the honor of attending them as soon as possible to her house, as they must be well convinced of her anxiety and distress, until he was enabled to give a satisfactory account of their transactions with Lord Abberville.

They readily complied, and arrived with him about nine in the evening at Portman-square, when Colonel Manners only alighting from the carriage, desired to be shewn into a parlour, sending a servant to acquaint the Dowager, that

that a gentleman entreated to see her below stairs on very particular business.

She guessing who it was, hastened down, agitated with the most violent apprehensions, of the intelligence she might receive: but on entering the room, was agreeably surpris'd by the Colonel's informing her, "The two young gentlemen were safe, and not far off; and what was still a greater satisfaction to relate, every thing had been terminated between Lord Abberville and Mr. Bellmour, consistent with the highest *étiquette* of honour."

The Dowager being now released from the weight of distress, which bore so heavy on her mind, ever since the receipt of Mr. Stirling's letter from Rome, was almost wild with joy, and poured forth grateful thanks to Colonel Manners, for his great attention and humanity in restoring her to happiness.

Henry and Edward being now introduced, the Dowager assuming an air of displeasure, thus addressed them, "So, Mr. Bellmour, you are providentially safe in my house, after having escaped the consequences of an event, which your rashness precipitately hurried you into, with the sole advice, I do suppose, of the experienced, well-informed Mr. Southern:—well have you both returned my anxious cares, by having paid so little attention to the letter I last wrote to you, Mr. Bellmour, and which I take for granted was shewn to your sage adviser Mr. Southern. Depend upon it, gentlemen, I shall inform both your Fathers of the contempt, with which I have been treated by you on this occasion."

To which Henry replied, "Nothing could afflict him more, than meriting

riting her Ladyship's displeasure in the most trifling point, or acting contrary to her opinion, having from gratitude, as well as inclination, the highest respect for her ; but was satisfied, when she was so good, coolly to consider, how much his honour, and that of his family, was wounded by the conduct of Lord Abberville to his amiable sister, she would rather applaud, than censure the step he had lately taken ; hoping the motives of real friendship and affectionate attachment, which had alone impelled his worthy companion Edward to accompany him to England, would prove a sufficient excuse to her Ladyship, for the part he had acted towards his friend." Then drawing his poor brother Edwin's last letter from his pocket (of which I have given my dear Mrs. Montague a copy) he presented it to the Dowager, add-

ing, "Be pleased, Madam, to peruse that letter, in which you will find, if even my own feelings for an injury offered to the deserving Emma, were inclined to be languid, I am there enjoined by the last request of a saint, I believe in Heaven, to guard my Sister's helpless walk through life, not only with the affection of a Brother, but with a Brother's arm: I have implicitly obeyed that dear companion of my infant days; and ever will during my existence."

He stopt, whilst an involuntary tear of sorrowful recollection started from his eyes, which by sympathy infected Edward, and fixt the Colonel in admiration of their manly sensibility.

The

The Dowager no longer able to support this affecting apology, burst into tears, and throwing her arms about these amiable young men, tenderly embraced them, saying, "My dearest children, forgive my reprehension, for what is now become a matter worthy of the highest approbation, and must exalt you both in my esteem and love."

No sooner had she recovered herself sufficiently, than she returned to the drawing-room with a particular air of gaiety in her countenance, accompanied by Colonel Manners only, that she might with caution break to her female friends, whom she left there (with Frederic and Lionel Southwell) the arrival of the Knight Errant and his Squire, which she humorously called

Henry and Edward, before she parted from them in the parlour.

On her entrance, she exclaimed, "You see Ladies, an old woman can have charms to attract a gay, young officer! The Colonel and I have had a little flirtation in private this evening, and I do assure you all; nay, don't stare and start! It was he, with whom you might have heard I was cloffeted, so very early this morning: how wonderfully the two lads, at Rome, would enjoy the Colonel's choice, in preference to such younger women: I am almost inclined to wish, they were here for a few hours, to make merry at my conquest."

She then turned her eyes, with an expressive smile, to Lady Hunter, who at once catching the hint, cried out in

in a transport, "I'll lay my life, Mr. Bellmour and Mr. Southern are returned from Italy; Is it not so, my good Lady Avondale? I am sure something pleasant has happened, during your absence from the drawing-room, to remove the unusual gloom which has been apparent in your countenance ever since the receipt of your letters yesterday."

The whole company taking the alarm, fixt their attention on the Dowager in silent suspense, except Colonel Manners, who seemed bursting for leave to laugh, which he was soon indulged in, by her saying, "You are right, Lady Huner, in your conjecture, they are both in this house; and what adds more particularly to my satisfaction in telling you so, Colonel Manners can assure you, that every

L 6

thing

thing we had reason to apprehend from Henry's resentment against Lord Abberville, has been happily and fortunately terminated this morning, at Windsor Forest. Is it not so, Sir?" The Colonel, with a bow, assented; assuring us, "He had been a witness to every degree of enmity between Lord Abberville and Mr. Bellmour, being finally determined to their mutual satisfaction."

The bell was now violently applied to, for summoning these two young men into our presence, where they no sooner appeared, than all the females who had been just informed of their arrival, broke forth into exultations almost bordering upon phrenzy, hanging about them in the most affectionate manner, and expressing the sincerest joy by their different sensations, at
such

such an unexpected and happy termination to all their fears.

Emma, in particular, was overcome beyond expression at this meeting: the idea of what Henry had undertaken, and the danger he exposed himself to upon her account, bore heavy on her generous mind; and it was with difficulty we could support her spirits, under the oppressive weight of it. When she became sufficiently collected for the attempt, she poured forth every feeling sentiment a grateful heart could dictate, for his fraternal and spirited protection; congratulating him on the success attendant on his kind exertions. She also complimented Edward, in a most delicate and engaging manner, on the affectionate proof he had so lately given, of a sincere attachment and noble friendship for her Brother.

All

All parties being tolerably composed, from the effects of this agitating interview, the two travellers were introduced to Frederic and Lionel Southwell, who seemed, from many circumstances, to enjoy great pleasure and entertainment in their company; and the evening concluded much to the satisfaction of every individual.

In the course of the most unbounded flow of spirits from every quarter, we could not avoid being merry at the expence of the worthy Mr. Stirling, and laughing at his awkward situation, in being outwitted by two striplings, "Gone only on an excursion for two days to Geneva." We also rallied Edward Southern on his having acted the hypocrite so truly, as to have deceived his penetrating preceptor into a firm belief, that his persuasions to
Henry

Henry not to return to England, until he heard from America, were as sincerely meant, as those attempted by himself.

“ Now every ill consequence to be apprehended from the elopement of these youngsters is at an end, and our alarm upon their account no longer exists, it is laughable enough,” said the Dowager, “ to talk over the deception put upon Stirling by two such boys ; but on cooler reflection, you must all allow, that he is justly entitled to the highest pity and attention, when we for a moment consider, what must have been the feelings of a person of his character and disposition, entrusted with the care of two young men, for whom he has entertained the sincerest regard and friendship, when a doubt scarcely remained of their being

ing gone, contrary to his opinion, to prosecute a scheme of resentment, which might be attended with consequences of the most serious nature ; therefore you will not, Henry, delay longer than to morrow, in informing Mr. Stirling of whatever you think may give him satisfaction, on your own and Edward's account ; thanking him also in my name for the letter he was so good to send me, and assuring him, that you and your friend propose to apologize to him in person, in the course of a very few days, for your precipitate departure from Rome." To which Henry replied, " He intended writing to-morrow to Mr. Stirling, even had not her Ladyship desired it, as he entertained too great a respect and esteem for that worthy gentleman, not to give him, as soon as possible, an assurance, he was satisfied, would,

would give him pleasure, and relieve his mind from infinite distress; and if agreeable to her Ladyship, should add, that he and Edward would undoubtedly set off for Rome in the course of fourteen days." The Dowager nodding her assent to this, the company received an additional degree of spirits, from a certainty of enjoying the society of these two favourite young men, even for so short a space.

After breakfast the following day, the Dowager desired Emma and me to go to Camden House, and bring home Louisa, to see her unexpected friends. We readily complied; and no sooner had we mentioned to the charming girl their arrival, then bursting into tears, she exclaimed, "Oh, my sisters! I well know what Henry is come for; and should Lord Ab-
berville

berville do him any harm, the heart of poor Louisa would surely break." We kissed away her tears, and assured her, all the danger so much dreaded was entirely at an end; when her sorrow instantly changed into the most extravagant joy and exultation.

On our return with Louisa to Portman Square, Edward and my Brother were most surprisngly struck at the improvement which so short a space as they were absent, had caused, both in the budding charms of her person and her manners, rendering her, if possible, a stronger likeness to my dearest mother, than even she appeared before.

In the course of the morning, Lord Broomsgrove payed his compliments and congratulations to the family, expressing

pressing his admiration at my Brother's conduct the preceding day, (of which his Sons had given him a particular account) and often calling him a gallant youth, worthy of such a Sister as Miss Bellmour. Before he finished the visit, his Lordship entreated the honour of the Dowager's company to dinner next day, with Lady Hunter's, and all the young folks; and hoped the two gentlemen would let him often have the pleasure of seeing them at Broomsgrove house, whilst they continued in England, "as it would contribute highly to his happiness," he said, "to see an intimacy take place between them and his Sons, Frederick and Lionel."

Indeed his Lordship had but little occasion to be uneasy on this point, the four young men having conceived
such

such a remarkable partiality for each other, that they were almost inseparable; the Southwells even accompanying Edward and Henry to Dover, on their way to the Continent.

During the few days they remained in London, never was there a more cheerful and happy period, every hour producing something new and entertaining, from a recital of their travels; but a cloud of sorrow universally succeeded on the morning of their departure, attended by some sincere and heavy sighs from some of the parties, which did not escape the notice of Frederic and Lionel Southwell, and served as a fund of raillery against poor Henry, on their way to Dover.

As soon as could reasonably be expected, Lord Broomsgrove received an answer from my Father, to his letter,

ter,

ter, in which he readily acquitted him, of bearing any part in the insult offered to his daughter by Lord Abberville; assuring his Lordship, that he should consider it a particular honour, to be favoured with a continuance of his and Lady Broomsgrove's friendship and good opinion, towards him and his family.

The rapture, with which his Lordship expressed himself to the Dowager Lady Avondale and her family, on receiving this letter, is scarcely to be believed. He brought it to her the very day of its arrival, and amongst numberless kind and friendly expressions, declared, "He wanted words to explain sufficiently, what happiness and real satisfaction it gave to him, Lady Broomsgrove, and his two boys, to perceive so evidently as was the case,

case, that they all continued firmly in the favourable opinion, not only of her Ladyship, but also of Colonel Bellmour and his family, notwithstanding the unpleasant disappointment which had so lately happened: a disappointment, Lady Avondale," continued his Lordship, with a heavy sigh, "which much disturbs my peace of mind, and causes many sleepless nights."

Emma likewise, about the same time, received a letter from my Father on the subject of her disappointment with Lord Abberville, written with true paternal affection, and replete with the most elegant and delicate sentiments and advice the heart of man could dictate: concluding, with paying her the highest compliments, on her very proper and feeling conduct

duct throughout the whole affair. Henry too, as soon as my Father was informed of it, received the honour of his perfect approbation, in every step he took relative to Lord Abberville; which did not, I assure you, Madam, a little elate his youthful heart, and that of Edward Southern, to whom he likewise paid a handsome compliment, for his manly friendship to his companion, on so delicate an affair.

Nothing very material happened in the Dowager Lady Ayondale's family, in the course of the ensuing winter, except two overtures of marriage made by men of rank and fortune to my sister Emma, which she could not reconcile herself to the thoughts of. Nor was Miss Southern without her share of admiration, particularly from
Colonel

Colonel Manners, who solicited the honour of her hand, which she in a very pretty, lively manner, declined, frankly assuring him, " Her affections had been long engaged ; but that she should always receive great pleasure from his friendship and acquaintance." To which the Colonel made such a reply, as might be expected from a gentleman of his refined and polished manners ; continuing his visits to the family, with the same easy freedom and attention, as if he never had received so discouraging a refusal, which at once cut off every hope of future success, with a Lady, for whom he had conceived the sincerest esteem and love.

Early in the summer of this year, Lord and Lady Broomsgrove, accompanied by Emma and Mr. Southwell,

who

who had finished his studies at Cambridge, set out on their intended tour to France and Italy, which gave them full employment for five months, enjoying, for the greatest part of that time, the pleasure of Henry and Edward's company; these two young men, with Mr. Stirling, having joined them by appointment at Lyons, and contributing very much to the pleasure of the excursion. They also had an opportunity of seeing Lord Hume, having delayed two days near the academy he was at in France, to indulge Emma with the pleasure of his company. She was charmed with his promising manners and appearance, as well as with the affection he seemed to feel for her and his relations, in spite of all his mother's endeavours to divert him from it.

The Dowager Lady Avondale and her party spent their summer at Rose-Hill, a seat of my Father's, in Hampshire, and at Hazlewood in Northamptonshire. Whilst at this latter residence, the races of Northampton commenced, at which none of the family appeared, on account of Miss Southern being confined to her chamber, in consequence of a fall she received from her horse a few days before, going with a party to see Fotheringay Castle, famous in history, for having been the prison and place of execution of Mary, the unfortunate Queen of Scots.

Our not being able to appear at this meeting was so far fortunate, that it prevented the unpleasing and awkward circumstance of seeing Lord and Lady Abberville, who were there during the

the whole time of the races. The information given by some who saw her Ladyship in public, was, that her beauty and affability, joined to the splendor of her dress and equipage, caused a general admiration, and that her spirits were in the highest degree of elevation: but his Lordship's the reverse, owing, according to the general opinion, to his Father's heavy displeasure at his marriage. He, however, paid her Ladyship the most polite and affectionate attention, which she evidently returned by the highest fashionable indifference.

The latter part of this information did not fail of affording a certain degree of malicious pleasure to the family at Hazlewood; and in particular to Juliana Southern, who positively declared, "That the happi-

ness she received, in an assurance of the faithless Abberville not being in possession of his Lady's affection, hastened her recovery, even more than the abilities and humane attention of Dr. K—— who attended her.

About the end of Autumn, we removed to Richmond, and soon after had the satisfaction of being joined by Emma, who with her friends had returned to England, after a most pleasing and instructive tour. With inexpressible joy, we soon perceived my most amiable sister to be perfectly restored to that peace of mind, her friends so much wished might happen; and her thoughts but very little engrossed, with the recollection of a man, who had proved himself unworthy of her.

Soon

Soon after our arrival at Richmond, the Dowager received a visit from her son, Lord Avondale, which afforded no small degree of pleasure to us all, as it was obvious the heart-felt happiness she enjoyed by it; and in a few weeks after, his Lordship gave her the like satisfaction, with the additional one of being accompanied by Lord Hume, whom the Dowager had not seen for some years. He flew into her arms, expressing his dutiful and affectionate regard, in the most endearing terms; and when presented to Lady Hunter, Juliana, and me, he soon discovered, that he inherited the Dowager's elegant and engaging manners. His pleasure at meeting Emma, whom he had seen in France, was very pointed and expressive of his happy feelings.

Lord Hume was now just in his eighteenth year; his figure remarkably fine, and his countenance beautiful and lively, with a particular ease and vivacity in every thing he said or did; of which he gave evident proofs, even at this first interview, addressing himself to the company by turns, as if we had all been his long and intimate acquaintance.

Lord Ayondale seemed most deservedly in raptures with him, and could not resist exclaiming to the Dowager, "Is he not, Madam, a charming youth." This unexpected compliment from his Father was received by Lord Hume with a respectful bow, and a most pleasing blush of modesty; which the acquiescence of the Dowager, in her Son's opinion, did not a little increase.

Book I

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Lord

Lord Avondale's visit on this occasion was rather short, and supposed by us all to have been made without the knowledge of his lady, as he by no means wished to disoblige her, even by allowing his children openly to pay a respect to his Mother: a circumstance which must have betrayed an unpardonable weakness in his Lordship, had he not the excuse to offer for it, that Mr. Harrington his Father-in-law was still alive; and as he had considerable expectations from his wealth, it would have been the height of imprudence to hazard the chance of his displeasure, by acting contrary to his Daughter's capricious humour.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

